



COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Coming off Sweet 16 run,
No. 6 Nevada starts 8-0
for 2nd straight season
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Life of 41st president
celebrated with praise,
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As Pearl Harbor day approaches, 'twilight' for last survivors » **Page 4**

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Sixteen Green Berets who fought across enemy lines in Vietnam were killed when their base was attacked on Aug. 23, 1968, near Danang. This year, their families and survivors were finally able to jointly commemorate their dead.

DIANNA CAHN/Stars and Stripes

A proper farewell

Families, survivors come together 50 years after deadly Special Forces battle to share memories, heal

BY DIANNA CAHN
Stars and Stripes

The enemy came down the mountain and in from all sides in the middle of the night wearing loincloths and headbands with a message written in blood that translated into: "We come here to die."
North Vietnamese and Viet Cong special



stripes.com/vietnam68

operations forces, known to the Americans as sappers, took the slumbering camp by surprise. The beachside forward operating base at the foot of sacred Marble Mountain was one of six in the region belonging to Green Berets fighting secretly "across the fence" in Laos, Cambodia and North Vietnam.
But on 23 Aug. 1968, FOB 4 became the site of a brutal battle.

SEE FAREWELL ON PAGE 6



INSIDE

16-page pullout section commemorating 50th anniversary of the war's most volatile year

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Prosecutors recommend no jail time for cooperative Flynn

BY CHAD DAY AND ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's former national security adviser provided so much information to the special counsel's Russia investigation that prosecutors say he shouldn't do any prison time, according to a court filing that describes Michael Flynn's cooperation as "substantial."



Flynn

The filing by special counsel Robert Mueller provides the first details of Flynn's assistance in the Russia investigation, including that he participated in 19 interviews with prosecutors and cooperated extensively in a separate and undisclosed criminal probe. But the filing's lengthy redactions also underscore how much Mueller has yet to reveal.

It was filed Tuesday, two weeks ahead of Flynn's sentencing and just

over a year after he became one of five Trump associates to plead guilty in the Russia probe, in his case admitting to lying to the FBI about conversations with the Russian ambassador to the U.S.

Though prosecutors withheld specific details of Flynn's cooperation because of ongoing investigations, their filing nonetheless illustrates the breadth of information Mueller has obtained from people close to Trump

as the president increasingly vents his anger at the probe — and those who cooperate with it.

This week, Trump accused his former lawyer, Michael Cohen, of making up "stories" to get a reduced prison sentence after pleading guilty to lying to Congress and praised longtime confidante Roger Stone for saying he wouldn't testify against Trump.

SEE FLYNN ON PAGE 10

MILITARY

Special Counsel probes VA doctor's retirement

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A Department of Veterans Affairs doctor who claimed his supervisors forced him to retire after he warned of anesthesiologists making near-fatal mistakes during surgeries was temporarily reinstated to his job, the U.S. Office of Special Counsel announced Tuesday.

Dr. Robert Cameron, a thoracic surgeon at the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, will get his job back for 45 days while the Special Counsel continues its investigation into the situation, the Merit Systems Protection Board decided. The board hears appeals from federal employees who believe they were inappropriately fired, suspended or disciplined.

The Office of Special Counsel is an independent federal investigative agency that protects whistleblowers.

"OSC will thoroughly investigate and, if necessary, seek corrective action if we find Dr. Cameron was retaliated against for speaking up when he saw patients' health being put in jeopardy," Special Counsel Henry Kerner said in a statement.

In the stay order issued Friday, the Merit Systems Protection Board said there were reasonable grounds to believe the VA had coerced Cameron into retiring in violation of federal law.

Cameron has been a VA employee for more than 20 years. In the most recent year, the agency rated his performance as "outstanding," the order states.

During two of his surgeries, on Sept. 6, 2017, and then Feb. 21, 2018, life-threatening medical complications arose that Cameron believed were caused by mistakes or the inexperience of the anesthesiologists involved in the operations.

Days after the February incident, Cameron emailed his supervisor and the hospital's chief of anesthesiology, criticizing the practice of assigning inexperienced anesthesiologists to thoracic surgeries.

In the email, he wrote he could not "look our veterans in the eye and tell them that they will be well cared for," the stay order states.

Cameron raised his concerns again with supervisors in May. On June 22, his supervisor told him his services were "no longer required" and gave him a separation date of July 7.

"Dr. Cameron asserts that he felt that he had no choice but to retire under these circumstances, and, as a result, retired effectively July 6, 2018," the order states.

When he left, he was the only thoracic surgeon employed by the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, the order states. He had 27 patients waiting for surgery.

Following the decision from the Merit Systems Protection Board, the VA had five days to comply with the order and reinstate Cameron. He's allowed to remain in the job until Jan. 13 to give the Office of Special Counsel more time to investigate.

"Given Dr. Cameron's terrific track record, the VA's decision to separate him from employment raises concerns," Kerner said.

Last year, Congress passed legislation with the intent to protect VA whistleblowers.

The VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act is still highly touted by President Donald Trump as a fix-all to root out a culture of corruption at the VA. The legislation created the Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection to oversee disciplinary actions and investigate misconduct and instances of whistleblower retaliation, but its effectiveness has recently come into question.

Some Democrats in Congress have aired concerns about the office inappropriately being used to punish staff for minor offenses or whistleblowing. Four senators called on the VA Inspector General to investigate its actions.

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USS Ronald Reagan returns to homeport

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The nation's only forward-deployed aircraft carrier returned to its Yokosuka homeport Wednesday after spending nearly four months patrolling the Western Pacific.

Families and friends of the USS Ronald Reagan sailors waited with patriotic signs as their loved ones pulled into port. They were joined by Santa Claus, who welcomed the crew home just in time for the holidays.

The carrier and its crew of more than 4,000 servicemembers set sail Aug. 14, kicking off its second cruise of the year by training with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force in the Philippine Sea. The Ronald Reagan had completed a two-month patrol of the South, East and Philippine seas in July.

Working with the Navy's Japanese counterparts was a key element of the Reagan's underway period, 7th Fleet spokesman Lt. Joe Kelley said in an email to Stars and Stripes on Wednesday.

"While underway, Ronald Reagan participated in several cooperative deployments with the (JMSDF) and conducted multiple exercises including Valiant Shield 2018 and Keen Sword 2019," he said.

Keen Sword brought the United States and Japan together last month for training on land, sea and air across the region. The Ronald Reagan participated in anti-submarine drills with F-18 Super Hornets during the exercise.

Valiant Shield took the crew to the Northern Marianas in September for a weeklong, U.S.-only

exercise with 15,000 sailors, airmen, soldiers and Marines. The group practiced maritime security operations, anti-submarine and air defense drills and sunk a decommissioned ship with live fire in a sinking exercise.

In early November, the Ronald Reagan took part in dual-carrier drills with the USS John C. Stennis off the coast of the Philippines near the disputed Spratly Islands in the South China Sea.

The Ronald Reagan also made numerous port visits during the patrol.

"Personnel from the Ronald Reagan Strike Group also visited several ports including Apra Harbor, Guam; Jeju, Republic of Korea; and Hong Kong, People's Republic of China," Kelley said.

The port visit to Hong Kong was especially significant because it marked the first time U.S. vessels visited China since the country denied the USS Wasp a similar visit in September.

The Sasebo-based amphibious assault ship's denial had come after 10 percent tariffs were levied on \$200 billion of annual Chinese imports and the U.S. had issued sanctions on China after discovering the country had bought fighter jets from Russia and a surface-to-air missile system.

One Ronald Reagan sailor, Petty Officer 3rd Class Zahir Hakeem, died during the port visit to Guam. He went missing while swimming near Haputo Beach at Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station Guam, the Navy said. His body was discovered in the water the following day.

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WAR ON TERRORISM

NATO chief: Taliban not letting up

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

NATO's top official warned Wednesday that security conditions could worsen in Afghanistan, where casualty rates have increased in a war that is now in its 18th year.

"It may actually become worse before it gets better in Afghanistan," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said after two days of talks with NATO foreign ministers in Brussels.

Attacks by the Taliban could increase in an attempt by the militants to strengthen their hand at the negotiating table, Stoltenberg said.

However, coalition leaders have warned that the pace of casualties among Afghan security forces is unsustainable. Since 2015, more than 28,000 Afghan police and soldiers have been killed in combat. The U.S. also has experienced more casualties in Afghanistan this year — 14 Americans have died in the country in 2018.

Stoltenberg acknowledged Afghanistan faces "many problems." "We see violence. We see casualties," he said.

On Tuesday, frustration over the war was apparent during a Senate hearing in Washington, where the nominee to serve as the next head of U.S. Central Command was grilled by lawmakers over the state of the war.

Lt. Gen. Kenneth F. McKenzie Jr. said he couldn't forecast when the 17-year-old mission would end and U.S. troops could return home. Without U.S. support, Af-

ghan forces would likely fall to the Taliban, he added.

"They're not there yet," McKenzie said of Afghan security forces. "If we left precipitously right now, I do not believe they would be able to successfully defend their country. I don't know how long it's going to take."

McKenzie and NATO allies argue that leaving Afghanistan risks allowing the country to once again becoming a haven for extremists who would use the territory as a base to plot attacks abroad.

In Brussels, Stoltenberg said allies are determined to stay the course in Afghanistan despite the difficulties.

"We remain committed to supporting Afghanistan," Stoltenberg said.

"This is obviously good for the Afghan people. But it is also in our own interest. Because a secure and stable Afghanistan makes us all safer."

Stoltenberg said allies are focused on training Afghans to operate more effectively and in turn lower their casualty rates.

"This is something which is really high on our agenda," Stoltenberg said.

Since NATO ended its formal combat mission in Afghanistan four years ago, the Taliban have gained territory and seen their force levels strengthen. McKenzie said there are roughly 60,000 Taliban fighters now, which is higher than past estimates.

Still, Stoltenberg said now is the time for peace talks.



FRANCISCO SECIO/AP

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, left, and Afghan Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani talk at a meeting of the North Atlantic Council and Resolute Support in Brussels on Wednesday.

"The Taliban must understand that continuing the fight is pointless and only causes more suffering. They should sit down at the

negotiating table," Stoltenberg said.

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Russia warns of arms deal retaliation

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russian officials on Wednesday warned of unspecified "retaliation" to the U.S. decision to walk out of a key arms treaty.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced at a NATO meeting Tuesday that Washington will suspend its obligations under the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty in 60 days, citing Russian "cheating."

The U.S. has shared intelligence evidence with its NATO allies that it says shows that Russia's new SSC-8 ground-fired cruise missile could give Moscow the ability to launch a nuclear strike in Europe with little or no notice.

The bilateral treaty between Washington and Moscow banned all land-based cruise and ballistic missiles with a range between 310 and 3,410 miles. Russia says the range of the new system does not exceed 310 miles.

Pompeo said Washington "would welcome a Russian change of heart" but that he has seen no indication Moscow is likely to comply.

Gen. Valery Gerasimov, chief of staff of the Russian military, told a briefing of foreign military attaches on Wednesday that the U.S. "wants to destroy" the treaty "we will not leave it without a response." He did not give specifics, but he told the attaches that it would be the countries that host U.S. intermediate-range missiles that would become immediate targets for Russia.

Russia has already received official notification from the U.S. that it intends to walk out of the INF. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said Wednesday. Zakharova insisted that Russia has always respected the treaty and considers it "one of the key pillars of strategic stability and international security."

Pakistani PM says Afghan peace in his country's interest

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan's prime minister told a U.S. special envoy that peace and reconciliation in neighboring Afghanistan is in his country's abiding interest but stopped short of promising to

bring the Taliban to the negotiating table.

Imran Khan and Zalmay Khalilzad, who is tasked with finding a resolution to the Afghan War, held talks on Wednesday in Islamabad.

The meeting comes days after

President Donald Trump reached out to Khan, seeking his cooperation in ending the 17-year-old conflict.

According to a statement, Khan "reiterated Pakistan's abiding interest in achieving peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan

through a political settlement."

Washington and Kabul have long accused Pakistan of turning a blind eye to and harboring the Taliban, whose leadership is based in southwestern Pakistan. Islamabad claims it has little influence over the Taliban.

Parents: New info a good sign US journalist missing since 2012 is alive

By LIZ SLV

The Washington Post

BEIRUT — The parents of missing American journalist Austin Tice on Tuesday said they have new information that bolsters their confidence that their son is alive, and appealed to the U.S. and Syrian governments to work together directly to secure his release.

Debra and Marc Tice were speaking during their eighth visit to Lebanon to raise publicity about their son, a former U.S. Marine who had served in Iraq. Austin has been missing since being detained at a checkpoint in Syria more than six years ago. He was working as a freelance journalist in a rebel-held area outside Damascus at the time.

With the war in Syria winding down and President Donald Trump taking an active interest in this case, there is more reason than ever to believe that conditions are ripe for their son to be freed by whoever is holding him, the Tices said at a news conference in Beirut.

They said they have always been confident that Austin is alive, but especially now. A \$1 million reward offered by the FBI, which has since been matched by a coalition of media organizations, has prompted several new sources of information to come forward, said Marc Tice. He declined to specify the new information.

"It's not just the feeling in our hearts that Austin is alive. It's the consensus of all those working on his case," he said.

The best hope lies in direct talks between Washington and Damascus for his release, Tice said, "because Austin is American and because he is detained in Syria."

The father stopped short of blaming the Syrian government for his son's continued detention.

"We do not have 100 percent confidence of that," Tice said.

The Syrian government has promised to do all it can to find Austin, the father said, but has provided no information as to his whereabouts or well-being.

The Tices had been hoping to travel to Damascus to appeal directly to the Syrian government but have not been granted a visa.

However, Tice added, "We do believe the Syrian government is best placed to help us get Austin back."

The Tices said they are particularly encouraged by Trump's personal interest in Austin's case and by his track record of bringing home other Americans detained overseas, including Otto Warmbier, who was freed by North Korea earlier this year but died days later, and Andrew Brunson, the pastor who was released by Turkey in October.

In meetings with Trump and other senior officials in recent months, "they have each made a commitment to us that they are determined to bring Austin home safely," Tice said. "And we continue to call for direct communication between officials of the two countries."

At the time of his disappearance in August 2012, Austin Tice had been reporting from the Da-

mascus suburb of Darayya, which was under rebel control.

There has been no reliable claim of responsibility for his abduction, which occurred in a contested area, according to Marc Tice, though a video released shortly after Austin went missing purported to show rebels threatening to execute him. Its authenticity has not been confirmed.

Austin has reported for the McClatchy news organization and The Washington Post, among others. His parents have sustained a tireless campaign for his release, and Debra Tice spent many months in Damascus in 2014 and 2015 in search of information.

She said there is still no clear indication what his captors may be seeking in return for his release.

MILITARY

It's 'twilight' for survivors of Pearl Harbor

By WILLIAM COLE
Honolulu Star-Advertiser

It's extra noteworthy that Everett Hyland, a Dec. 7, 1941, attack survivor who was on the USS *Pennsylvania*, will return the salute of a passing Navy warship at Friday's anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Hyland, 95, will do so on behalf of all Pearl Harbor survivors and World War II veterans as the ship sails by the sunken USS *Arizona*. That salute will be extra poignant because there are fewer and fewer survivors to render it themselves.

For the first time in many years, not a single USS *Arizona* survivor will be present for the 7:50 a.m. 77th commemoration on the back lawn of the Arizona Memorial visitor center. A total of 1,177 men were killed, and more than 900 remain entombed in the battleship.

Just five crew are still alive: Lauren Bruner, 98; Lonnie Cook, 98; Ken Potts, 97; Lou Conter, 97; and Don Stratton, 96. Old age and failing health prevented even a single *Arizona* survivor from making the lengthy trip to Oahu this year.

Daniel Martinez, chief historian for the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, which includes the Arizona Memorial, called it a "twilight" for the Pearl Harbor generation.

"We're lucky to have five *Arizona* survivors left," Martinez said. "At their age of 95-plus, it's remarkable that they've had that longevity, and it keeps us still secured to the idea that someone could tell us what



ARTHUR GWAIN L. MARQUEZ/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

For the first time in many years, no USS *Arizona* survivors will attend the Pearl Harbor commemoration at the USS *Arizona* Memorial visitor center in Honolulu on Friday.

happened — because they witnessed it."

But those eyewitnesses are "fading right before our eyes," he said.

Longtime Honolulu resident Ray Emory, who fired back at attacking Japanese planes with a .50-caliber machine gun from the USS *Honolulu*, and who spent decades trying to identify Dec. 7 casualties buried as "unknowns" at Punchbowl cemetery on Oahu, died in August at age 97.

In the two-hour attack about 2,455 men, women and children were killed. The total

included 2,390 American servicemen and Oahu civilians, 56 Japanese aviators and up to nine Japanese submariners.

Conter, who helped with the wounded on the stricken *Arizona* and later flew PBV Catalinas, getting shot down twice, made it out to Pearl Harbor at least the past 15 years to remember his fallen shipmates.

"It's hard to walk up those steps and look at those names there and know what happened," the Grass Valley, Calif., resident said of the names of the fallen inscribed in

the shrine room of the Arizona Memorial. But he and lots of family each year made the trip, nevertheless. Conter said he wanted to come out this year, too, and made reservations. But the effects of a hospitalization sidelined him.

"My doctor said, 'Lou, damn it, you're old. It takes twice as long to get well — so remember that,'" Conter said in a phone interview.

Stratton, another *Arizona* crewmember who was there for the Pearl Harbor anniversary last year, was one of six men saved by climbing hand over hand on a rope tied to the repair ship USS *Vestal* as flames consumed the *Arizona*. The Colorado Springs, Colo., resident won't be making the trip for the first time in 11 years because his wife, Velma, 92, doesn't feel able to make the long journey, said son Randy.

All the traveling "really makes them so tired and exhausted by the time they get back," Randy Stratton said. "It takes a week for them to recoup from all that."

Still, about 40 World War II veterans — nearly half of whom are Pearl Harbor survivors — are expected, the Navy said.

Extensive repairs needed to the dock servicing the memorial put a halt to walk-on visits starting in May, and survivors will not be able to step foot on the memorial this Dec. 7. The dock is not expected to be back in service until at least March.

Several of the Navy launches now used to ferry visitors on a tour of Battleship Row will be utilized for survivors and families to present a floral tribute adjacent to the sunken battleship.

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THE NEW SANNO

MILITARY

Air Force officer sentenced for sex crimes

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — An Air Force weather officer was convicted Tuesday on multiple counts of sex crimes after sharing hundreds of sexually explicit messages, photographs and videos with two undercover agents whom he believed to be 14 years old.

Capt. Sean Miller, assigned to the 7th Weather Squadron in Wiesbaden, was sentenced to 18 months in jail and dismissal from the service.

Military judge Lt. Col. Will Babor found the former youth soccer coach guilty of all charges, despite defense arguments that Air Force Office of Special Investigations' methods rose to the level of entrapment.

Miller was convicted of five counts of attempting to commit a lewd act upon a person he believed to be a minor via online communications and two counts of soliciting those same individuals to produce and distribute child pornography.

He pleaded not guilty to all charges at the start of his court-martial Monday and declined to have his case tried by a jury of officers.

The charges against Miller



LANE PLUMMER/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Then-1st Lt. Sean Miller, shown in 2016 at U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden, Germany, was convicted for sharing sexually explicit material with undercover agents posing as underage girls.

date to November 2016. While deployed to Hurlburt Field, Fla., for training, he responded to a "casual encounters" ad on Craigslist.

The site has since shut down personal ads for romance and sex after Congress passed a law cracking down on sex trafficking of children.

Posted by "Tiffany," the ad stated that she was a military dependent looking for fun with people who had base access.

In reality, Tiffany was an OSI agent working at Hurlburt as part of an Internet Crimes Against Children sting.

The operation was focused on the Defense Department community in north Florida, agents testified in court.

Miller's initial communication with Tiffany was benign. "Hey, I'm sorry you're lonely," he wrote. "I'd like to help you out."

When the agent wrote his persona was 14, Miller said, "Hey, we can never meet. I'm a little older than you," and told her he was 28.

Tiffany wrote she was OK with the age difference; that she didn't want a friend, was "tired of boys" and was "looking for someone mature."

Miller remained cautious, according to court testimony. He said that he didn't want to get in trouble. After several more exchanges the conversation turned sexual.

But then the emails from Miller stopped for several days. The OSI agent testified that he tried to re-engage Miller and found out he had left Florida and was stationed in Germany. He told Miller about Tiffany's friend, "Kerri" — a 14-year-old girl who lived on Ramstein with her mom — and gave Miller her email address.

Kerri was really another OSI agent working at Ramstein. Miller contacted her immediately, telling her at one point he was interested in "massages, kisses and sex."

For more than three months, Miller communicated with the undercover agents by email and Kik, a mobile instant messaging app. He first sent them just a photo of his face and random self-

ies that eventually escalated to sexual photos exposing himself.

His language was often X-rated. A video he sent to one of the agents that appears to show him masturbating was played in court. The agent posing as Kerri sent Miller enhanced photos of herself that made her appear younger and smaller. He prodded the agents to provide him with sexual photos and videos, which they never did.

The agents said in court they made it clear their personas were underage; they said they were 14 and, throughout their chats with Miller, wrote about typical teenage concerns and topics, such as school, soccer games, boys and their parents.

Miller appeared to be worried about getting caught, frequently telling Kerri to delete his messages and keep their correspondence secret. He never arranged a meet-up.

Miller was arrested in February 2017 while deployed to Qatar.

The defense argued that Miller, struggling with depression and in a bad marriage at the time, was obsessed with sex but not with minors, his attorneys said.

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MILITARY

Farewell: Survivors and families gather to help find closure

FROM FRONT PAGE

The attackers carried grenades, AK-47 rifles and bundles of explosives tied together, known as satchel charges. They swept in quietly and got to work, blowing up hooches and the ammunition store, pushing in air-conditioning units to throw in satchel charges and firing at will as soldiers — some wearing nothing more than their underwear — jumped out of bed and ran into the bullet stream.

In one of the most deadly nights in Special Forces history, 16 American families would be shrouded by grief and isolated in secrecy.

This was the classified war. Their sons, husbands, fathers, brothers were killed in secret circumstances. They would not gather in memorial, nor would they learn for many years the heroic details of how young soldiers and combat veterans shook off the stunning attack and fought face-to-face with the enemy that had penetrated their inner sanctum.

Lt. Dan Thompson arrived at FOB 4 just days after the attack. As platoon leader for the Hatchett Force — indigenous special operators who conducted search-and-destroy missions along the Ho Chi Minh Trail — he was tasked with helping to rebuild, man the listening post on the mountain, restore security and train, school and equip the South Vietnamese commandos.

The bodies had all been removed, he recalled. But the devastation was a constant reminder of the enormity of loss.

"There was no time for grieving," Thompson said. "The camp needed rebuilding. Security was on high alert. Recon teams were reforming and training. There was a shortage of men, so it was put your head down and put one foot in front of the other."

Memorial breakfast

Fifty years later, Dan Thompson was standing in front of survivors and family members of those lost on that long-ago 23 Aug. 1968.

They had gathered for a memorial at the Special Operations Association reunion in Las Vegas in October — the first time families of the dead at Marble Mountain were given a place of honor. Relatives of 11 of the 16 Americans who died were attending, and for some, tears were already flowing.

Most had never met.

But sitting alongside the men who survived, after so long, the family members finally felt like they had a community of their own.

Mary Welch was a mother of two, including a 3-month-old, when her husband, Donald Welch, was killed. Beside her sat Ronnie Morton — her partner of 47 years. Louise Cogan lost her first love, Spc. Anthony Santana, just 20 days after they eloped. Paul Uyesaka sat stoic but overwhelmed beside his grown son and daughter, remembering his firstborn older brother whose shoes he never believed he could fill. There were Master Sgt. Rolf Rickmers' two sons, whose childhood memories of him continue to occupy their lives. And Doris Ray Curry, widow of Sgt. 1st Class Harold Voorheis, who couldn't stop crying, sat among the others.

All finding solace they didn't know they needed.

"You think you are over it," said Steve Bric, there with his wife, son and daughter and his sister, Cathy. He remembered the pain of watching his mother receive that folded flag after his brother, Pfc. William Bric, was buried.

Fifty years later, I am more emotional than I was a year after," he said. "This is the most healing thing in the world."



Photos courtesy of Staff Sgt. Raymond Steele

A soldier poses by a damaged barracks in the recon area following the attack at FOB 4 near Danang, Vietnam on Aug. 23, 1968.



A hole in the fence on the perimeter of FOB 4 shows where enemy sappers made their entry onto the base for a deadly surprise attack.

Bric was the first family member to find his way to this community of special operators. In the late 1990s, shortly after the declassification of the battle, his daughter Erin found a story about it online. It was written by John Stryker Meyer, a Green Beret who'd become a career journalist and made it his life's mission to document their battles in Vietnam.

"Dad," Erin told her father, "I know what happened to Uncle Bill."

Bric tracked down Meyer, who put him in touch with Doug Godshall, a survivor of the 23 Aug. 1968 attack. Godshall was Bric's brother's best friend and among the last men to see him alive.

When it came time to organize the memorial, Steve Bric was there to help contact families.

Those present at the breakfast had not been easy to track down. It took a handful of men who survived the battle and months of research and outreach by Bonnie Cooper, a former Army intelligence analyst and a Special Forces wife who saw an online post about the group looking for family members and volunteered to help. She

tracked down families who'd had no contact with the Special Operations community for decades. Then, they reached out, one at a time.

'One foot in front of the other'

In 1968, a year that saw more American losses in Vietnam than any other, Special Forces reconnaissance teams fighting secret battles across enemy lines paid an even higher toll.

Their casualties reached nearly 100 percent, with few escaping injury and many being wounded more than once. The Military Assistance Command, Vietnam—Studies and Observation Group or MACV-SOG, had the highest loss rate of any U.S. Army unit since the Civil War, said Godshall, an organizer of the memorial.

Godshall was among dozens of MACV-SOG visiting the base that night for a promotion board and grabbed a free bed in Bill Bric's hooch. When the explosions started, he saw Bric grab his weapon and run out into the spray of fire to take his position with his men on the perimeter.

As Bric ran past other barracks, he shouted warnings, drawing danger to himself but alerting many sleeping soldiers to the attack. Even after being knocked down by an explosion, he got up and opened a burst of fire that killed an enemy soldier before being shot and killed, according to the citation for the Bronze Star with "V" device for valor he was posthumously awarded Sept. 12, 1968.

The special operators who survived the attack shook off their many losses and got back to work. The families at home buried their young men in quiet solitude, with little acknowledgement.

"Though we moved on, the accumulation of these missing men took up residence in our memories, and never left," Thompson told the 300 people who attended the memorial. "For me, it was 16 more men, stacked away somewhere on top of the others who had vanished."

"Meanwhile, back home, 11 wives were left as widows; 14 sons and nine daughters lost their fathers; 14 boys and girls lost their brothers; 27 fathers and mothers lost a son, and life went back to normal for the rest of the community."

"But not for you," he continued. "After the casualty assistance team departed, you had to figure out how to put food on the table. It was head down, one foot in front of the other. And you grieved."

But on this October day, their tears were more joyful.

"There was something about walking into that room with all those guys cheering for the families," Steve Bric said. "It was a way of getting peace — really at peace with it."

The survivors

Pat Watkins looked around the room. All these years later, it was still hard for him to understand what the families had gone through. He's often taken it on himself to speak to the widow of a lost comrade, but he never felt like he had the right words.

SEE PAGE 7

MILITARY

FROM PAGE 6

Much the same, the widows and siblings and children will never quite grasp the insanity of the clandestine war. How adrenaline, drive and steeled nerves gave the special operatives such an unshakable determination to face death no matter how many times it came calling.

Watkins went to Vietnam in 1967 with 16 people. He came back in 1968 with four, three of them wounded, he said. He had been wounded twice.

He was summoned from Phu Bai to Danang for the promotion board. He hated going to FOB 4, sitting as it did at the foot of the mountain — the largest in a small chain known as the Marble Mountains. But to the men at FOB 4, that peak was Marble Mountain. Caves and tunnels up there were known hideouts for the enemy sappers. The Americans long suspected that the monastery in the mountains had become an enemy haven, but because it was sacred ground, the Americans were prohibited from raiding it.

Already a seasoned fighter, Watkins would spend 23 Aug. 1968 bleeding from repeated grenade explosions — including one in which he jumped on a wounded comrade for protection — dodging bullets and, armed with a 45 mm pistol, killing more sappers than one man should be able to. Within the chaos he created order, organizing a group of men to try to defend their area before moving on to the tactical objective. One day, where the communication guys — none of them combat fighters — were under heavy attack.

It was a long, bloody night.

For many, many years, the survivors spoke of it only among themselves, offering pieces to grieving families. Some of the men who fell were quickly chosen for medals. But the living received no medals for that battle beyond Purple Hearts — 66 from that night alone.

The battle would remain classified until 1992, but by then the survivors had scattered. It was only much later, after former MACV-SOG lobbied incessantly, that higher medals were finally issued — 24 with the valor designation. Watkins received the Distinguished Service Cross, the Army's second-highest military award.

The survivors have speculated for years that the battle went unpublished so long due in part to the well-known shortcomings in base security that had left it vulnerable. Gene Pugh, who was a communications operator, recalled that he took in CIA messages Aug. 19 and 20 that warned of imminent ground attack. It was only a few years ago that he and Bill Barclay compared notes, and they discovered that Barclay took in the same message Aug. 22, just hours before the attack. But the base commander never acted on the warnings, they said.

Bonnie Cooper, who spoke with every living survivor and family member before the memorial, said she gleaned from the men that the beach entrance to the camp, which was used by the locals, was known as a weak point. People often came in without being checked and the fence was not blown. Sand was blown off the claymore mines planted on the



ABOVE PHOTO COURTESY OF LARRY TRIMBLE; RIGHT PHOTO BY DIANNA CAHN/Stars and Stripes

Green Beret Staff Sgt. Larry Trimble, bottom left and the South Vietnamese reconnaissance team he led in 1968 pose for a picture. Trimble led the men in a fierce battle on Marble Mountain against North Vietnamese forces, destroying their mortars during a major attack on the U.S. base down below.

beach as perimeter protection, exposing them for all to see.

"It was just terrible security and everybody kind of knew it," she said. "I think the reason it didn't get the attention it should have was basically embarrassment. Heads should have rolled."

Several wondered aloud how dozens of special operators could be brought together for a promotion board in the middle of combat. The camp, which Cooper's research indicates housed 89 men, had between 140 and 160 that night.

"A fiasco," Watkins said.

"Stupid," Godshall said. "Whatever the reason, the greatest loss to Special Forces in this awful tragedy, and the God Star families were left to grieve in silence without any knowledge of the incredible service that their sons and brothers and siblings were performing under horrific circumstances."

"There was no 24-hour news cycle," Godshall told those in the breakfast room.

"There was no acknowledgment from the White House, the Defense Department in this awful tragedy, and the God Star families were left to grieve in silence without any knowledge of the incredible service that their sons and brothers and siblings were performing under horrific circumstances."

One by one, Godshall called each family in the room up to the podium to receive a plaque and coin. More often than not, as they sat down, Watkins walked over and put his hand on a someone's shoulder.

"I wanted them to know that we as a group didn't feel they died in vain," he said.

"You've heard this a hundred times. Soldiers fight for each other."

Unfinished business

Dan Thompson shared one final story with the group.

Something, he said, drove him to make his way back to Marble Mountain in 1994. So he went to the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, made rubbings of the names of the men who were lost there and took them with him.

He found a monk who had lived on the mountain since 1968, who agreed to perform a "calling of the dead" ceremony to help the souls of those who died violently find peace and move on. Each name was called, a bell

was rung and a table was set for each man with a bowl of steaming rice, flowers and a lighted candle. The monk burned the rubbings.

The next day he and the monk climbed the mountain and scattered some of ashes. Thompson brought the rest home in an envelope, where it sat in a file for many years.

"But I didn't have the sense of resolution I expected," he said during his presentation.

This year, he placed the ashes and other artifacts in a metal box, which Bonnie Cooper covered with pictures. On 23 Aug. 2018, at the Wall in Washington, he called each man's name, rang a bell and placed the box at panel 47 W, beside the names of the men who died at Marble Mountain.



Cathy and Steve Bric, whose brother Bill was one of 16 Green Berets killed in the Aug. 23, 1968, attack, hold plaques given to them at a memorial for the families on Oct. 17.

Survivors and family members share their stories, memories stripes.com/vietnam68

A bugler played taps.

Thompson finished his story. He and Godshall stood at attention at the back of the room, eyes glistening as a video of their ceremony filled the screens.

OK to remember

Afterward, families and survivors sat for hours, telling and hearing stories, remembering.

Gene Pugh sat with the Rickmers brothers. Mike Rickmers looks just like his dad, Pugh said.

Steve Bric's daughter Erin asked her Aunt Cathy what Uncle Bill was like. After all these years, she finally felt that was OK to ask.

Kind, Cathy Bric said. He had

lots of friends. He always had a girlfriend. People liked him. He signed up right after high school without asking their parents. He was her best friend.

She felt honored by the memorial, she said, like she was part of something.

"I think it's OK to look back and remember," she added.

Nearly, Mary Welch and Ronnie Morton sat at a table with former MACV-SOG Loren Yaeger, who showed pictures on his computer.

He told Mary how he was in the building and awoke to explosions. Like other veteran combatants, he knew to jump under his bed and pull his mattress over him. He saw a sapper inside the building and yelled at Donald Welch to wake up.

Before Welch could get out of bed, the sapper threw a grenade. When Yaeger awoke, rafters were on fire and falling and the wall near his bed was gone.

The only thing left in that room was me," Yaeger told her.

At Donald's funeral, his body had been so fragile that his casket had to have a glass shield, Mary recalled. She never learned the details. She only knew she'd been unable to touch him or hold his hand or give him a last kiss.

"To me, it was just heart-wrenching to know that he wasn't able to get out of his bed and run for cover — that he was killed instantly when that grenade or whatever went off," she said.

The breakfast was a way to finally give him a proper goodbye, she said.

"That's what we've been waiting for all this time."

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NATION

Faulty bomb elevators make for rough going in aircraft carrier deal

By TONY CAPACCIO
Bloomberg

The new head of the Senate Armed Services panel says he's weary of backing the Pentagon's plan to buy two aircraft carriers in one contract so long as contractor Huntington Ingalls Industries is struggling to fix the elevators needed to lift bombs from below deck.

"I think the case for two right now is weaker because of the lack of success in getting everything working" on the USS Gerald R. Ford, the first vessel in the new class of carriers, Sen. James Inhofe said in an interview. The Oklahoma Republican spoke after joining Navy officials in a visit Monday to the Huntington Ingalls shipyard in Newport News, Va.

Inhofe recalled that his last such visit was in 2015, when the Navy said that the \$13 billion Ford was on the cusp of delivery. It was delivered in May 2017, but the contractor hadn't completed installing, testing and certifying its 11 munitions elevators.

Navy Secretary Richard Spencer told reporters in August that the elevators are "our open Achilles Heel."

The Navy plans to complete installation and testing of the 11 elevators before the Ford completes its post-delivery shake-down phase in July. Capt. Danny Hernandez, a Navy spokesman, said in an email. Six will also be certified for use by then, but five won't be completed until after July, he said. "A dedicated team is engaged on these efforts and will accelerate this certification work and schedule where feasible," he said.

Huntington spokeswoman Beci Brenton said via email that company officials had a "very productive meeting" with Inhofe that included both the elevators and benefits of a two-carrier contract.

The elevators' completion "has been delayed due to a number of first-in-class issues associated with the first-time installation, integration and test of this new technology," she said. "However, we are making substantial progress in resolving the remaining technical challenges."

Even as the Ford's tardy elevator installations are underway, the Navy is working with Huntington Ingalls to determine by the end of this month an estimate of potential savings from putting the third and fourth aircraft carriers in the class on a single contract. The second carrier, the USS John F. Kennedy, is already under construction.

The Navy has said savings on a two-for-one carrier contract could exceed \$2.5 billion. A two-carrier contract would be a financial boon to Huntington Ingalls, the nation's sole maker of nuclear aircraft carriers. Brenton, the Huntington Ingalls spokeswoman, said such a move would allow the company to "buy materials in



SUSAN WALSH/AP

Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., says he'll confer closely with Defense Secretary Jim Mattis on the Pentagon's plan to buy two aircraft carriers in one contract.

quantity and phase work more efficiently," while delaying the decision would "further weaken a fragile industrial base."

"I'm not opposed to it at this point," Inhofe said in the interview on Monday. "We have a need for two carriers — that work," he said, adding, "If this were a first delay I wouldn't be as concerned."

The carriers may prove a test case for how aggressively Inhofe will pursue oversight of major defense programs, a trademark of his predecessor, the late Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.

Congress gave the Navy authority in this year's defense policy bill to pursue the two-carrier contract pending approval by Defense Secretary Jim Mattis. That gives lawmakers like Inhofe less leverage to slow a deal.

But Inhofe said he'll confer closely with Mattis and convey his concerns. "He is also one we can talk to," he said. "I'm always done very well dealing with Mattis."

During the shipyard visit, Inhofe said, "They spent most of their time down there telling me what a great thing" the carrier is, "and I'm sure it is." The \$58 billion Ford carrier class is designed with major changes over the current Nimitz-class carriers, such as a catapult system that's electromagnetic rather than steam-driven. But the new technology has had major reliability flaws.

In a Thanksgiving call to U.S. servicemembers overseas, President Donald Trump brought up his frequent complaint about the new system. "Steam is very reliable, and the electromagnetic — I mean unfortunately, you have to be Albert Einstein to really work it properly," he said.

Navy officials told Inhofe the launch system has been fixed, citing more than 700 successful launches. "All that's great and good," Inhofe said. "But still, the elevators still don't work."

"So I feel a little uncomfortable saying, 'Let's go ahead and let's get two and everything is going to be fine,'" he said.

Mattis OKs deployment extension for border GIs

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has approved a request from the Department of Homeland Security to keep active-duty troops deployed to the U.S.-Mexico border through Jan. 31, Pentagon officials announced Tuesday.

About 5,400 troops are deployed at the southern border in Texas, Arizona and California to support Border Patrol agents protecting against illegal immigration, said Lt. Col. Jamie Davis, a Defense Department spokesman. The number of troops to remain at the border was not provided

Tuesday by the Pentagon.

It was previously announced that troops would return home by Dec. 15.

Deployed since late October, servicemembers have worked to "harden" the border with coiled razor wire barriers. Military police, who already carry a weapon as part of their day-to-day assignments, were granted authorization in late November to provide force protection for the Customs and Border Protection agents they are supporting.

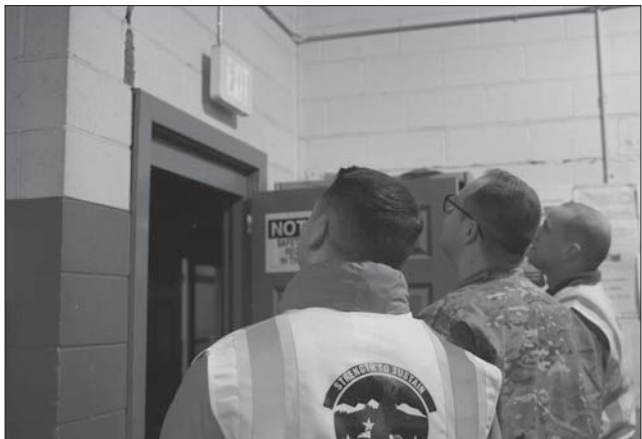
The military mission will continue to provide limited aviation, engineering, medical and mili-

tary police resources, Davis said.

During the past few weeks, portions of a migrant caravan made up of thousands of Central Americans have begun to arrive at the border, primarily in Tijuana, Mexico, near the border with California. Arrivals are expected to continue.

The caravan has remained mostly peaceful except for violent demonstrations on both sides of the border on Nov. 25 at the San Ysidro Port of Entry, near San Diego. Border Patrol agents broke up crowds using tear gas.

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CRYSTAL A. JENNINS/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Air Force Senior Airman Randal Herring, Tech. Sgt. Cody Luginbill and Staff Sgt. Nicholas Pratt conduct an expedient building inspection at the Navy Supervision of Salvage maintenance shop at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, on Tuesday, four days after an earthquake hit the base.

Hospital on Alaska base suffers millions of dollars in damages from earthquake

By CATLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Medical facilities at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska sustained millions of dollars in damages last week from a massive earthquake, with one facility destroyed and another suffering equipment losses, the base medical group commander said Tuesday.

"We have probably about \$7 million worth of damage that we're going to have to work on in the next several months," Col. Mark Lamey, acting 673rd Medical Group commander, said during a town hall meeting about installation services after the

magnitude 7.0 earthquake hit Friday.

The installation is still "providing all the health care capability sets that we've always had, minus a couple things," he said.

Some services cannot be performed due to some medical equipment needing to be replaced or recalibrated, such as machines used for laser eye surgeries.

Their flight medicine building, which focuses on pilots and air crew medical readiness, was "completely devastated," Lamey said.

"The interior is destroyed and so we've had to relocate those functions" to the family health clinic, he said. Their occupational

medicine and deployment health operations have also been relocated to another building on base.

There was also a loss to routine appointments since the earthquake. Lamey said he is looking into extending their hours to provide care to the community.

The Glenn Highway, a main road leading to the base, was also damaged in several places, so the installation is trying to stagger when people come on the base for work, according to Lt. Col. John Ross, a spokesman for Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and the 673rd Air Base Wing.

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GEORGE H.W. BUSH 1924-2018

Farewell to 'last great soldier-statesman'

Dignitaries, citizens pay final tribute to former president

By CALVIN WOODWARD,
LAURIE KELLMAN
AND ASHRAF KHALIL
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — George H. W. Bush was celebrated with high praise and loving humor Wednesday as the nation bade farewell to the man who was America's 41st president and the last to fight for the U.S. in wartime. Three former presidents looked on at Washington National Cathedral and a fourth — George W. Bush — prepared to eulogize his dad.

The congregation, filled with foreign leaders and diplomats, Americans of high office and others touched by Bush's life, rose for the arrival of the casket, accompanied by clergy of faiths from around the world. In their row together, President Donald Trump and former Presidents Barack Obama, Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton stood with their spouses and all placed their hands over their hearts.

Bush was "the last great soldier-statesman," presidential historian Jon Meacham said in his eulogy, "our shield" in dangerous times. On a light note, he added that Bush, campaigning in a crowd in a department store, once shook hands with a mannequin. Rather than flushing in embarrassment, he simply cracked, "Never know. Gotta ask."

Meacham also praised Bush's call to volunteerism — his "1,000 points of light" — placing it alongside Abraham Lincoln's call to honor "the better angels of our nature" in the American rhetorical canon. Meacham called those lines "companion verses in America's national hymn."

Trump had mocked "1,000 points of light" last summer at a rally, saying "What the hell is that? Has anyone ever figured that one out? And it was put out by a Republican, wasn't it?"

The national funeral capped three days of remembrance in Washington before Bush's remains return to Texas on Wednesday for burial Thursday.

A military band played "Hail to the Chief" as Bush's casket was carried down the steps of the U.S. Capitol, where he had lain in state. Family members looked on as servicemen fired off a cannon salute.

His hearse was then driven in a motorcade to the cathedral ceremony, slowing in front of the White House. Bush's route was lined with people much of the way, bundled in winter hats and taking photos.

Waiting for his arrival inside, Trump shook hands with Obama and former first lady Michelle Obama, who greeted him by saying, "Good morning." Trump did not shake hands with Bill



EVAN VUCKI/AP

Former President George W. Bush speaks during the state funeral for his father, former President George H.W. Bush, at the National Cathedral in Washington on Wednesday.



ALEX BRANDON, POOL/AP

From left, President Donald Trump, first lady Melania Trump, former President Barack Obama, Michelle Obama, former President Bill Clinton, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and former President Jimmy Carter listen as former President George H.W. Bush speaks at the state funeral for former President George H.W. Bush.

and Hillary Clinton, who looked straight ahead.

Bill Clinton and Michelle Obama smiled and chatted as music played. Carter was seated silently next to Hillary Clinton in the cavernous cathedral. Obama cracked up laughing at someone's quip. Vice President Mike Pence shook Carter's hand.

Trump tweeted Wednesday that the day marked "a celebration for a great man who has led a long and distinguished life." Trump and his wife took their seats after the others, briefly greeting the Obamas seated next to them.

Also expected in the invitation-only crowd: Mike Lovejoy, a Kennebunkport electrician and fix-it man who has worked at Bush's Maine summer estate since 1990

and says he was shocked and heartened to be asked to come.

On Tuesday, soldiers, citizens in wheelchairs and long lines of others on foot wound through the Capitol Rotunda to view Bush's casket and honor a president whose legacy included World War II military service and a landmark law affirming the rights of the disabled.

Former Sen. Bob Dole, a combat vet in war, peace and political struggle, steadied himself out of his wheelchair and saluted his old friend and one-time rival.

Bush and Dole, now 95, had many points of intersection over the years.

They were fellow World War II veterans, Republican Party leaders, fierce rivals for the 1988

Republican presidential nomination won by Bush ("Stop lying about my record," Dole snapped at Bush) and skilled negotiators. Dole, an Army veteran hit by German machine-gun-fire in Italy, has gone through life with a disabled right arm. Bush, a Navy pilot, survived a bail-out from his stricken aircraft over the Pacific and an earlier crash landing.

On Tuesday, Dole was helped out of his wheelchair by an aide, slowly steadied himself and saluted Bush with his left hand, his chin quivering.

After the national funeral service at the cathedral, Bush's remains will be returned to Houston to lie in repose at St. Martin's Episcopal Church before burial Thursday at his family plot on the presidential library grounds at Texas A&M University in College Station. His final resting place will be alongside Barbara Bush, his wife of 73 years who died in April, and Robin Bush, the daughter they lost to leukemia in 1953 at age 3.

Trump ordered the federal government closed Wednesday for a national day of mourning. Flags on public buildings are flying at half-staff for 30 days.

As at notable moments in his life, Bush brought together Republicans and Democrats in his death, and not only the VIPs.

Members of the public who never voted for the man waited in the same long lines as the rest, attesting that Bush possessed the dignity and grace that deserved to be remembered by their presence on a cold overcast day in the capital.

"I'm just here to pay my respects," said Jane Hernandez, a retired physician in the heavily

Democratic city and suburbs. "I wasn't the biggest fan of his presidency, but all in all he was a good, sincere guy doing a really hard job as best he could."

Bush's service dog, Sully, was taken to the viewing too — his man service these last months since Barbara Bush's death in April being to rest his head on her husband's lap. Service dogs are trained to do that.

The CIA also honored Bush, the only spy chief to become president, as three agency directors past and present joined the public in the viewing.

In the midst of the period of mourning, first lady Melania Trump gave Laura Bush, one of her predecessors, a tour of holiday decorations at the White House, a "sweet visit during this somber week," as Laura Bush's Instagram account put it. And the Trumps visited members of the Bush family at the Blair House presidential guesthouse, where they are staying. Former President George W. Bush and his wife greeted the Trumps outside before everyone went in for the private, 20-minute visit.

Although Trump attended Bush's service, he was not among the eulogists. They were, in addition to Bush's eldest son, Alan Simpson, the former senator and acerbic wit from Wyoming; Brian Mulroney, the former Canadian prime minister who also gave a eulogy for Ronald Reagan; and Meacham.

People lined up before dawn to pay respects to the 41st president, a son and father of privilege now celebrated by everyday citizens for his common courtesies and depth of experience.

"He was so qualified, and I think he was just a decent man," said Sharon Terry, touring Washington with friends from an Indianapolis garden club. Said her friend Sue Miller, also in line for the viewing: "I actually think I underestimated him when he was in office. My opinion of him went up seeing how he conducted himself as a statesman afterward."

Fred Curry, one of the few blacks in line, is a registered Democrat from Hyattsville, Md., who voted for Bush in 1988, the election won by the one-term president. "Honestly, I just liked him," he said. "He seemed like a sincere and decent man, and you couldn't argue with his qualifications."

Dignitaries had come forward on Monday, too, to honor the Texan whose service to his country extended three quarters of a century, from World War II through his final years as an advocate for volunteerism and relief for people displaced by natural disaster. Bush, 94, died Friday.

Bush's death reduces membership in the ex-presidents' club to four: Carter, Clinton, George W. Bush and Obama.

NATION



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., speaks to reporters after a closed-door security briefing Tuesday by CIA Director Gina Haspel on the slaying of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi and involvement of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Senators point to Saudi prince after CIA briefing

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and LISA MASCARO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Breaking with President Donald Trump, senators leaving a briefing with CIA Director Gina Haspel on Tuesday said they are even more convinced that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman was involved in the death of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Corker, R-Tenn., said he believes if the crown prince were put on trial, a jury would find him guilty in “about 30 minutes.”

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who demanded the briefing with Haspel, said there is “zero chance” the crown prince wasn’t involved in Khashoggi’s death. “There’s not a smoking gun. There’s a smoking saw,” Graham said, referring to reports from the Turkish government that said Saudi agents used a bone saw to dismember Khashoggi after he was killed in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul.

Graham said “you have to be willfully blind” not to conclude that this was orchestrated and organized by people under the crown prince’s command.

Trump has equivocated over who is to blame for the killing, frustrating senators who are now look-

ing for ways to punish the longtime Middle East ally. The Senate overwhelmingly voted last week to move forward on a resolution curtailing U.S. backing for the Saudi-led war in Yemen.

It’s unclear whether or how that resolution will move forward. The vote last week allowed the Senate to debate the measure, which could happen as soon as next week, but senators are still in negotiations on whether to amend it and what it should say.

Haspel met with a small group of senators, including leadership and the chairmen and top Democrats on the key national security committees, after senators in both parties complained that she didn’t attend an all-Senate briefing with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis last week.

Pompeo and Mattis tried to dissuade senators from punishing Saudi Arabia with the resolution, saying U.S. involvement in the Yemen conflict is central to the Trump administration’s broader goal of containing Iranian influence in the Middle East.

Human rights groups say the war is wreaking havoc on the country and subjecting civilians to indiscriminate bombing.

Turkey has been seeking to extradite 18 suspects, including 15 members of the alleged assassination squad. The government said a trial in Turkey would provide transparency and accountability but Saudi authorities have not fully cooperated.

Speaking on condition of anonymity in line with government protocol, a senior Turkish official familiar with the investigation said the arrest warrants reflect Turkey’s view that Saudi Arabia won’t hold the suspects accountable.

“The international community seems to doubt Saudi Arabia’s commitment to prosecute this heinous crime,” the official said, adding that by extraditing all suspects to Turkey, “Saudi authorities could address those concerns.”

Saudi Arabia has detained 21 people and says it is seeking the death penalty for five.

Flynn: His testimony points to involvement by Trump’s inner circle in Russia probe

FROM FRONT PAGE

It’s unclear if Trump will now turn his fury on Flynn, with whom Trump bonded during the 2016 campaign.

Trump has repeatedly lamented how Flynn’s life has been destroyed by the special counsel’s probe. At one point, he tried to protect Flynn by asking former FBI Director James Comey to drop an investigation into his alleged false statements, according to a memo Comey wrote after the February 2017 encounter.

That episode, which Trump has denied, is among those under scrutiny by Mueller as he probes whether the president attempted to obstruct the Russia investigation.

Federal sentencing guidelines recommend between zero and six months in prison, and Mueller’s office said Flynn’s cooperation merits no prison time.

Prosecutors said Flynn’s early cooperation was “particularly valuable” because he was “one of the few people with long-term and firsthand insight” into the events under investigation. They noted his cooperation likely inspired other crucial witnesses to cooperate.

Mueller’s team credited Flynn with serving 33 years in the U.S. Army, including five years in combat. But prosecutors also said the long military and government service that sets him apart from all other defendants in the investigation made his deception more troublesome.

“The defendant’s extensive government service should have made him particularly aware of the harm caused by providing false information to the government, as well as the rules governing work performed on behalf of a foreign government,” they wrote.

Flynn’s case has stood apart from those of other Trump associates, who have aggressively criticized the investigation, sought to undermine it and, in some cases, been accused of lying even after agreeing to cooperate.

Trump’s former campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, is accused of repeatedly lying to investigators since his guilty plea. Another Trump campaign aide, George Papadopoulos, is serving a 14-day prison sentence and, though he pleaded guilty to the same crime as Flynn, was denied prosecution because prosecutors said his cooperation was lacking.

But Flynn has largely remained out of the public eye, appearing only sporadically in media interviews or campaign events, and avoided criticizing the Mueller probe, despite widespread encouragement from his supporters to go on the offensive.

Another highly anticipated filing is expected Friday from Mueller’s office, detailing the lies that prosecutors say Manafort told them after his guilty plea.

In Tuesday’s filing, prosecutors emphasized that the conduct



CAROLYN KASTER/AP

Former national security adviser Michael Flynn has remained out of the public eye during the Mueller probe.

Flynn lied about cuts to the core of the investigation into any coordination between the Trump campaign and the Kremlin.

Flynn’s false statements stemmed from a Jan. 24, 2017, interview with the FBI about his interactions with Sergey Kislyak, Russia’s then-ambassador to the U.S., as the Obama administration was levying sanctions on the Kremlin in response to election interference.

Mueller’s office blamed Flynn for other senior Trump transition officials making misleading public statements about his contacts with Russia, an assertion that matches the White House’s explanation of Flynn’s firing.

As part of his plea deal, Flynn said members of Trump’s inner circle, including his son-in-law and White House aide Jared Kushner, were involved in — and at times directing — his actions in the weeks before Trump took office.

According to court papers, in mid-December 2016, Kushner directed Flynn to reach out to several countries, including Russia, about a U.N. Security Council resolution regarding Israeli settlements.

Flynn also admitted that later in December 2016 he asked Kislyak not to retaliate in response to the Obama administration sanctions, something he initially told FBI agents he didn’t do. Flynn made the request after discussing it with deputy national security adviser K.T. McFarland, who was at Trump’s Mar-a-Lago resort, and being told that Trump’s transition team did not want Russia to escalate the situation.

Flynn was forced to resign his post on Feb. 13, 2017, after news reports revealed that Obama administration officials had warned the Trump White House about Flynn’s false statements. The White House has said Flynn misled officials — including Vice President Mike Pence — about the content of his conversations.

NATION



Sara Sullivan recovers a figurine Tuesday from her Magalia, Calif., home, which was destroyed by the Camp Fire.

NOAH BERGER/AP

Search for wildfire missing winds down in Northern Calif.

BY JANIE HAR AND PAUL ELIAS
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The search for people unaccounted for after the deadliest U.S. wildfire in at least a century is winding down in Northern California, with just 11 names left on a fluctuating list that once approached 1,300 and prompted fears that hundreds had died in the flames.

The declining number released late Monday came as a relief in the Paradise area as it reels from the wildfire that killed at least 85 people and destroyed nearly 14,000 homes.

Families, friends and even long-ago acquaintances have been peppering social media with pleas for help finding people. Sometimes they had no more than a first name to work with.

Authorities now say they have located more than 3,100 people who had been reported as unreachable at some point during the catastrophe.

"I think that's a pretty remarkable number at this point," Butte County Sheriff Kory Honea said.

He also has revised the death toll down to 85 from 88, saying medical examiners determined several bags of human remains were duplicates.

The Associated Press has been scouring the list of people unaccounted for and found duplicate names, misspellings and people who don't appear to exist.

People who were previously identified as dead or alive by family or friends have not more than appeared on the list.

The list of names released each day frustrated those looking for people and baffled residents

whose names appeared even though they weren't missing.

Honea repeatedly said he released the list — no matter how long at times — to reach those who may not know people were looking for them.

He said it was never intended to be a definitive account of people who were missing or possibly dead.

The AP located several people, including a couple who had decamped from the fire zone area for a previously planned vacation in Hawaii.

Patrick Holden and Nancy Barnes fled their Paradise home at the same time as most of their neighbors. They spent five terrifying hours on Nov. 8 making the normally 30-minute drive to nearby Chico.

The next day, they identified themselves as safe through Facebook, alerted their friends and then, realizing that their home was burned to the ground, headed to Hawaii for their vacation.

Holden was stunned to see his name pop up on the list two weeks after the disaster. The couple appeared on a list released Sunday as "Patrick and Nancy Holton" of Paradise.

"Everybody in the car club, the bridge club and the Paradise Newcomers Club knew we were OK," Holden said Monday from his timeshare in Maui. "I don't know how we got on the list now."

His daughter, Amanda Lunsford, said a former co-worker of her father might have added him. Holden said he hasn't called him. Butte County Sheriff's Office to let them know about the error because they're busy.

Holden said he hasn't called him. Butte County Sheriff's Office to let them know about the error because they're busy.

Justice Department charges 4 in Panama Papers scheme

The Washington Post

The Justice Department charged four people Tuesday with scheming for decades to hide tens of millions of dollars from the Internal Revenue Service — the first U.S. indictment over an alleged tax-evasion scheme revealed in 2016 through the Panama Papers.

The four people charged include a former investment manager, a former U.S. resident, an American accountant and a Panamanian lawyer who once worked for the firm at the center of the case, Mossack Fonseca.

The Panama Papers is the name given to a trove of more than 11 million documents from the Mossack Fonseca firm which a consortium of journalists made public in April 2016, leading to criminal investigations throughout Europe into possible tax evasion and money laundering.

The 11-count indictment unsealed in New York marks the first time the U.S. government has charged anyone with tax crimes related to the firm — and authorities suggested others could soon be charged.

"More investigations are on the way," said IRS criminal investigations chief Don Fort.

The head of the Justice Department's criminal division, Brian Benzakowski, issued a warning to law firms, asset managers and accountants that they can be arrested if they help their clients evade taxes.

"The charges announced today demonstrate our commitment to prosecute professionals who facilitate financial crimes across international borders and the tax cheats who use their services," he said.

The charges include wire fraud, money laundering conspiracy, conspiracy to defraud the United States and false statements.

The indictment suggests investigators were looking at Mossack Fonseca's activities years before the Panama Papers were released, noting that one unnamed client grew uneasy about the arrangement and went to authorities in 2013 under a voluntary program to report previously undeclared assets being held in overseas accounts.

That client is identified in court papers as a U.S. citizen living in Manhattan who made millions of dollars as a liaison between investors and money managers and for years hid that money from the

IRS.

The indictment describes an ambitious effort by Mossack Fonseca and people associated with the firm to hide assets from the IRS while still giving their American clients access to the money the taxman couldn't reach.

The Justice Department charged Ramones Owens, a lawyer who worked for Mossack Fonseca, who remains at large. Also charged was Dirk Brauer, who worked as an asset manager for Mossack Asset Management, a company closely affiliated with Mossack

Fonseca. Brauer was arrested in Paris last month. Richard Gaffey, an accountant in Massachusetts, was arrested Tuesday morning, and Harald Von Der Goltz, a former U.S. resident now living in London, was arrested Monday.

The indictment charges that Owens, Brauer and Gaffey spent years setting up complex entities allowing their clients to hide and invest millions of dollars controlled by American clients who did not report that money to the IRS.

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NATION



Steve Appa/AP

Bob Kinoshian, from Wauwatosa, Wis., protests Republicans' lame-duck bills during the state Christmas Tree lighting ceremony in the state Capitol Rotunda in Madison, Wis., on Tuesday.

Wis. GOP's lame-duck bills seek to limit Dem's power

By SCOTT BAUER
AND TODD RICHMOND
Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — Wisconsin Republican lawmakers on Wednesday passed a series of bills to weaken the incoming Democratic governor and attorney general. Highlights of the sweeping legislation, which was approved in the lame-duck legislative session, include:

- Limits early voting to no more than two weeks before an election.
- Gives the Legislature's budget committee, rather than the attorney general, the power to withdraw the state from lawsuits. That would prevent Democratic Attorney General-elect Josh Kaul from withdrawing Wisconsin from a multistate lawsuit to re-

peal the federal Affordable Care Act.

- Gives Republicans in the Legislature the majority of appointments to the Wisconsin Economic Development Corp., the state's quasi-private job-creation agency that Democratic Gov.-elect Tony Evers wants to reorganize.

■ Requires state health officials to implement a federal waiver allowing Wisconsin to require childless adults under age 50 to work in order to receive health insurance through the BadgerCare Plus program. The legislation prevents Evers from seeking to withdraw the waiver request.

■ Eliminates the attorney general's solicitor general office. The office currently handles some of the highest-profile and most political lawsuits.

- Requires all settlement

money the attorney general wins to go to the state's general fund rather than the state Justice Department.

- Prohibits judges from giving greater weight to state agencies' interpretations of laws in court challenges.

■ Requires the governor to get permission from the Legislature before asking for changes in programs run jointly by the state and federal governments, limiting the governor's authority to run public benefits programs.

■ Reduces income tax rates next year to offset about \$60 million in online sales taxes from out-of-state retailers.

■ Requires the governor to get permission from the Legislature before he could ban guns in the state Capitol.

House GOP committee reports cyberbreach

By MICHAEL BALSAMO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The National Republican Congressional Committee said Tuesday that it was hit with a "cyber intrusion" during the 2018 midterm campaigns and has reported the breach to the FBI.

The committee provided few details about the incident but said the intrusion was conducted by an "unknown entity."

"The cybersecurity of the committee's data is paramount, and upon learning of the intrusion, the NRCC immediately launched an internal investigation and notified the FBI, which is now investigating the matter," spokesman Ian Prior said in a statement. "To protect the integrity of that investigation, the NRCC will offer no further comment on the incident."

The FBI had no comment. Politico first reported the cyberbreach.

The severity and circumstances of the hacking weren't made clear. Politically motivated cyberespionage is commonplace across the world, but Americans have become particularly alert to the possibility of digital interference

following the 2016 election. That hack is still fresh in the minds of many political operatives.

In March 2018, NRCC Chairman Steve Stivers said the committee hired multiple cybersecurity staffers to work with its candidates and promised to do more.

"We're starting to advise campaigns, but we're not ready to roll the whole thing out. We're working on it," Stivers said at the time. "We're working on the technology-based stuff to try and make sure that we know what's out there — which is hard, too — and then we try to defend against it the best we can."

In August, Microsoft alerted the public to attempts by government-backed Russian hackers to target U.S. conservatives' email by creating fake websites that appeared to belong a pair of think tanks, the Hudson Institute and the International Republican Institute.

It also confirmed an attempt similarly attributed to Russian hackers to infiltrate the Senate computer network of Sen. Claire McCaskill, the Missouri Democrat who lost a re-election bid in November.



J. David Axle/AP

Traffic streaks past the FBI headquarters building in Washington in 2017. The FBI is investigating a "cyber intrusion" reported by the National Republican Congressional Committee.

China gives few details on trade deal

Associated Press

BEIJING — China issued an upbeat but vague promise Wednesday to carry out a tariff cease-fire with Washington but gave no details that might dispel confusion about what Presidents Xi Jinping and Donald Trump agreed to in Argentina.

China has yet to confirm Trump's claim that Beijing committed to cut auto tariffs and buy more American farm exports.

That, coupled with conflicting statements by Trump and U.S. officials, helped trigger a tumble in U.S. stock prices Tuesday amid doubt about the chances for a lasting settlement of a battle over technology that threatens to chill global economic growth.

"China will start from implementing specific issues on which consensus has been reached,

and the sooner, the better," the Commerce Ministry said on its website.

The two sides have a "clear timetable and road map" for talks, the ministry said, but gave no details. The ministry didn't respond to questions by phone and fax.

The Chinese silence prompted questions about what Trump said was a promise by Beijing to buy more American exports and negotiate over U.S. complaints that it steals American technology. Stock markets rose Monday after U.S. officials touted the agreement as a historic breakthrough. But they plunged Tuesday after Trump called himself "Tariff Man" on Twitter and renewed threats of penalty duties.

Be patient, said Ma Hong, a trade expert at Tsinghua University in Beijing. He said Chinese lead-

ers are right to move carefully as they deal with contentious details. The delay in talking "isn't a sign of rejection, but of cautiousness," said Ma. "The United States has put forward many demands, not all of them reasonable," he said. Negotiations will proceed "step by step, not based on the rhythm of the United States."

Trump is pressing Beijing to roll back plans for state-led development of Chinese technology champions that Washington says violate its market-opening commitments.

Chinese leaders have offered to change some details of plans such as "Made in China 2025." They have rejected pressure to scrap strategies they see as a path to prosperity and global influence, but foreign analysts say they might be starting to understand the depth of foreign opposition.

More US beef being recalled

Associated Press

NEW YORK — An Arizona company is expanding the scope of its recall of raw beef that could be contaminated with salmonella, federal officials said Tuesday.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture said in a news release that a unit of Brazil's JBS is now recalling a total of more than 12 million pounds of raw beef that was shipped around the U.S.

According to officials, information obtained in three additional cases of sickened patients led to the identification of other ground beef products.

JBS Tolleson in Arizona al-

ready recalled about 7 million pounds of beef in October. Health officials say all the products up for recall have the USDA inspection number "EST 267."

"While no products in this expansion have been definitively linked to any illness, we have determined in consultation with USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) that this action is in the best interests of public health," JBS said.

The products were packaged between late July and September. The USDA says all the potentially tainted products have been removed from retail stores.

WORLD

Dozens arrested in Italian mob crackdown

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — Hundreds of police in Germany, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands arrested at least 84 suspected mobsters and seized around \$2.3 million Wednesday in a series of coordinated raids targeting a powerful branch of the Italian mafia.

The raids were the culmination of an investigation code-named Polaris that was launched in 2016 against the 'Ndrangheta criminal group on allegations of cocaine trafficking, money laundering, bribery and violence, said Eurojust, the European prosecution authority that fights cross-border organized crime, which coordinated the operation.

Eurojust said the massive operation was the biggest of its kind in Europe. Some 4 tons of cocaine were traced during the two-year joint investigation.

Cocaine and ecstasy pills also were seized in Wednesday's raids.

Eurojust said Italian authorities arrested 41 suspects mainly in the southern regions of Calabria and Catanzaro.

US reopens diplomatic mission in Somalia

JOHANNESBURG — The United States says it has re-established a "permanent diplomatic presence" in Somalia for the first time in 27 years.

The State Department late Tuesday said "this historic event reflects Somalia's progress in recent years and is another step forward in formalizing U.S. diplomatic engagement in Mogadishu."

The U.S. closed its Somalia embassy in January 1991 as the country collapsed into civil war, with the military airlifting out the ambassador and others.

The U.S. formally recognized Somalia's new federal government in 2013 but has based its diplomatic mission in the capital of neighboring Kenya.

New Ambassador Donald Yamamoto arrived at the U.S. mission last month.

Body of missing Florida woman possibly found

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica — Costa Rican authorities said Tuesday that they found what appears to be the body of a missing South Florida woman who was on vacation in the Central American country to celebrate her 36th birthday and that a suspect had been detained.

Walter Espinoza, head of the country's Judicial Investigation Department, said officials were using fingerprinting to confirm the identity. An autopsy revealed that the victim suffered a blunt force wound to the head and lacerations on the neck and arms, he said.

A Facebook page set up by friends of the missing woman, Carla Stefaniak, said family members went to the morgue in San Jose on Tuesday to identify the body but were turned away by local authorities.

From The Associated Press

Brexit debate enters 2nd round

By JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON — Britain's House of Commons was opening round two Wednesday in a bruising battle between lawmakers and Prime Minister Theresa May's government over Brexit.

Lawmakers were holding the second of five days of debate on the government's divorce deal with the European Union before Parliament votes on Tuesday to accept or reject it.

May is struggling to keep the Brexit deal on track after her government was dealt a double blow by Parliament.

In a historic first, legislators on Tuesday found the government in contempt of Parliament for refusing to publish legal advice it received from the country's top law officer about the agreement.

The government argued that such advice is customarily kept secret. But it bowed to defeat Wednesday and released the reasoning from

Attorney General Geoffrey Cox.

The main thrust of Cox's advice was already known — the government released a 43-page document about it Monday in a bid to fend off the contempt motion. But the defeat demonstrated the fragility of May's government, which does not have a majority in Parliament.

The legal advice also has provided fuel to opponents of May's deal, who dislike a "backstop" provision in the agreement that would keep the country in a customs union with the EU to guarantee an open border with EU member Ireland and the U.K.'s Northern Ireland.

The backstop is intended as a temporary measure, but pro-Brexit lawmakers say it



May

could leave Britain tied to the EU indefinitely and unable to strike new trade deals around the world.

The legal advice confirmed that Britain can't unilaterally opt out of the backstop, which requires agreement by both sides. Cox advised that there was a risk the U.K. might become stuck in "protracted and repeating rounds of negotiations."

Politicians on both sides of Britain's EU membership debate oppose the agreement that May struck with the bloc — pro-Brexit ones because it keeps Britain bound closely to the EU, and pro-EU politicians because it erects barriers between the U.K. and its biggest trading partner.

Most signs suggest the government is headed for defeat in next week's vote. That would leave the U.K. facing a messy, economically damaging "no-deal" Brexit on March 29 and could topple the prime minister, her government or both.



COURTESY OF DR. WELLINGTON ANDRAUS/AP

A baby girl born to a woman with a uterus transplanted from a deceased donor is seen in December 2017 at the Hospital das Clinicas of the University of Sao Paulo School of Medicine in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

First baby born using uterus transplanted from deceased donor

By MARIA CHENG
Associated Press

LONDON — Brazilian doctors are reporting the world's first baby born to a woman with a uterus transplanted from a deceased donor.

Eleven previous births have used a transplanted womb but from a living donor, usually a relative or friend.

Experts are using uterus transplants from women who have died could make more transplants possible. Ten previous attempts using deceased donors in the Czech Republic, Turkey and the U.S. have failed.

The baby girl was delivered last December by a woman born without a uterus because of a rare syndrome. The woman — a 32-year-old psychologist — was initially apprehensive about the transplant, said Dr. Dani Ejzenberg, the transplant team's lead doctor at the University of Sao Paulo School of Medicine.

"This was the most important thing in her life," he said. "Now

she comes in to show us the baby and she is so happy."

The woman became pregnant through in vitro fertilization seven months after the transplant. The donor was a 45-year-old woman who had three children and died of a stroke.

The recipient, who was not identified, gave birth by cesarean section. Doctors also removed the womb, partly so the woman would no longer have to take anti-rejection medicines. Nearly a year later, mother and baby are both healthy.

Two more transplants are planned as part of the Brazilian study. Details of the first case were published Tuesday in the medical journal *Lancet*.

Uterus transplantation was pioneered by Swedish doctor Mats Brannstrom, who has delivered eight children from women who got wombs from family members or friends. Two babies have been born at Baylor University Medical Center in Texas and one in Serbia, also from transplants from living donors.

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN
Associated Press

PARIS — The concessions made by French President Emmanuel Macron's government in a bid to stop the huge and violent anti-government demonstrations seemed on Wednesday to have failed to convince protesters, with trade unions and disgruntled farmers now threatening to join the fray.

A day after Prime Minister Edouard Philippe announced a suspension of planned fuel tax increases that kicked off protests, the burgeoning "yellow vest" protest movement showed no sign of slowing down. Students opposed to a university application system remained mobilized, trucking unions called for a rolling strike and France's largest farm union threatened to launch protests next week.

Trade unions have not played a role in the coordination of the improvised movement so far but are now trying to take advantage of the growing anger among the public. A joint statement from the CGT and FO trucking unions protesting a cut to overtime rates called for action and asked for an urgent meeting with Transport Minister Elisabeth Borne.

Although most of the fuel deluge blocked by protesters have now been cleared, fuel shortages continued to hit several parts of France on Wednesday, with hundreds of petrol stations affected.

Wearing their signature yellow vests, demonstrators were back at toll booths on Wednesday to express their demands, ranging from income and pension rises to the dissolution of the national assembly.

"Of course I can understand their claims; they are legitimate," said Thomas Tricottet, a protester at Tolbiac university in downtown Paris, where students took over the building and classes were canceled.

"We need taxes, but they are

France braces for more tax protests

not properly redistributed," he told BFM TV station. "We obviously need to fight against this."

Meanwhile, high school students union FIDL called for a "massive and general mobilization" on Thursday and urged Education Minister Jean-Michel Blanquer to step down.

Put on the back foot, Philippe's government opened the door for more concessions as spokesman Benjamin Griveaux did not exclude bringing back a wealth tax that was slashed soon after Macron came to power in May 2017.

"If something isn't working, we're not dumb, we'll change it," Griveaux told RTL radio, adding that "the issue is not on the table for now."

Macron's popularity has slumped to new lows since the first "yellow vest" demonstrations took place on Nov. 17. The former investment banker, who was elected after campaigning for deep pro-business economic reforms, is accused of being the "president for the rich" and of being estranged from the working classes.

Since returning from the G-20 summit in Argentina, Macron has either remained in his palace residence or shied away from speaking publicly about the protests that have created his biggest political crisis since taking office last May. On Tuesday night, he was booed and jeered as he traveled to a regional government headquarters that was torched by protesters last weekend.

By caving in to yellow vests' demands on fuel taxes, Macron also lost credibility in the fight against climate change after leading the way with an aggressive environmental agenda and promising to drastically cut carbon emissions.

President Donald Trump said Macron's decision to delay the tax increases justified his own decision to withdraw from an international climate accord.

FACES

Kevin Hart to host Academy Awards

Associated Press

Kevin Hart has a new job — he will host the 2019 Academy Awards, a role the prolific actor-comedian says fulfills a longtime dream.

Hart announced his selection for the 91st Oscars in an Instagram statement Tuesday. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences followed up with a tweet that welcomed him “to the family.”

The announcement came hours after trade publication The Hollywood Reporter posted a story calling the Oscars host position “the least wanted job in Hollywood.”

Hart clearly doesn't feel that way, writing on Instagram that it has been on his list of dream jobs for years. The 2019 Oscars will be broadcast Feb. 24 stateside on ABC.

“I am blown away simply because this has been a goal on my list for a long time... To be able to join the legendary list of hosts that have graced this stage is unbelievable,” Hart wrote. “I know my mom is smiling from ear to ear right now.”

“I will be sure to make sure this year's Oscars are a special one,” Hart wrote.

Hart takes over hosting duties from Jimmy Kimmel, who presided over the past two ceremonies, including 2016's flub that result-

ed in the wrong best picture winner being announced.

Last year's ceremony was an all-time ratings low, and the film academy has announced a series of changes to the upcoming show. Those include shortening the broadcast to three hours, and also presenting certain categories during commercial breaks and broadcasting excerpts of those winners' speeches later in the show.

The 39-year-old Hart has become a bankable star with films such as “Ride Along,” “Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle” and “Night School.”



JORDAN STRAUSS, INVISION/AP

Actor-comedian Kevin Hart will host the 2019 Academy Awards, which he says fulfills a lifelong dream.



Marvel Studios/Disney

Michael B. Jordan, left, and Chadwick Boseman face off in “Black Panther,” which likely soon will be facing off against the year's top films for best picture and other categories at the Academy Awards.

‘Black Panther’ positioned to be a major Oscars player

By JAKE COYLE

Associated Press

“Black Panther” has, in a way, already been to the Oscars.

Much of the film's cast was eagerly highlighted at March's ceremony: a welcome splash of blockbuster luster at an Academy Awards that largely lacked it. “Black Panther” had at the time already been in theaters for a few weeks, leading host Jimmy Kimmel to note: “This is a night for positivity and our plan is to shine a light on a group of outstanding and inspiring films, each and every one of which got crushed by ‘Black Panther’ this weekend.” Much of the audience either laughed or winced. (On Oscar Sunday alone, “Black Panther” grossed \$19.9 million.)

As Hollywood's awards season properly gets under way, “Black Panther” is poised to return to the Academy Awards, but this time as a nominee — and potentially a winner. The Ryan Coogler's superhero sensation has already notched countless records, pulverized box-office myths and set new marks for inclusivity. And now, “Black Panther” is in line to shatter Oscar norms, too.

All of this year's contenders have by now screened, and Oscar prognosticators generally have “Black Panther” in, comfortably, as a best picture nominee. Both the pundit survey “Gurus of Gold” and Hollywood Reporter awards analyst Scott Feinberg place “Black Panther” fifth, behind front-runners “A Star Is Born,” “Roma,” “Green Book” and “The Favourite.” Gold Derby slots “Black Panther” at No. 7, still easily within the category's range of up to 10 nominees.

Much is still in flux in the Oscar race ahead of Thursday morning's Golden Globes nominations.

But unless something drastic happens, “Black Panther” will next month become the first comic book film to be nominated for best picture and easily Marvel Studios' most significant Oscar contender ever.

That's very good news for ABC's Feb. 24 telecast, which is coming off an all-time low of 26.5 million viewers. Some 55.2 million watched “Titanic” sweep the 1997 Oscars, and producers have long harbored dreams of another big-ten blockbuster pulling viewers to a broadcast increasingly dominated by independent films like “The Shape of Water,” “Moonlight” and “Spotlight.” Usually, bigger movies mean bigger ratings.

For the makers of “Black Panther,” it's a new chapter for a film — with more than \$1.3 billion in ticket sales, the third-highest all-time domestic gross and the biggest box-office hit ever directed by a black man — that has already filled record books.

Few films will be watched more closely through awards season than “Black Panther,” which is also in the running for Ruth Carter's costume design, the cinematography of Rachel Morrison (who last year became the first woman ever nominated in the category), Hannah Beachler's production design, Coogler's direction, the script by Joe Robert Cole and Coogler, Kendrick Lamar's song “All the Stars” and Michael B. Jordan's supporting performance.

While superhero films have dominated multiplexes for the past decade, the Oscars have been famously resistant to them. Ten years ago, “The Dark Knight” earned eight nominations but missed out on best picture, prompting the film academy to expand the category the following year.

‘Crazy Rich Asians’ fails to find audience in China

From wire services

Chinese audiences aren't exactly going nuts over the U.S. box office hit “Crazy Rich Asians,” despite its all-Asian cast and theme of rising Asian prosperity.

Industry data show the film made just \$1.2 million over the three days of its initial release, far behind local productions in the world's second-largest movie market. That compared with the \$24.2 grossed by the Chinese crime drama “A Cool Fish,” according to data from the consultancy Artisan Gateway cited by Variety, an industry journal.

Critic Shi Hang said Chinese audiences are so used to all-Asian productions that the casting didn't hold much novelty.

“What the public was excited about abroad was all-Asian faces, but, sorry, we watch all-Asian faces every day so it is less valuable here,” Shi said.

The film's poor performance in China contrasts sharply with its near-rapturous reception in the U.S., where it was hailed as the first all-Asian box office smash.

The film's over-the-top displays of wealth and entitlement might also have been a turn-off for some viewers in a country where the widening gap between rich and poor rankles many.

“Warner Bros.’ breakout romantic comedy earned \$173 million in the U.S. and was a box office hit in Singapore, where it is set.

AFI Awards announces 2018 honorees

The American Film Institute announced 10 films and 10 television shows as honorees of the 2018 AFI Awards on Monday.

“BlackKkKlansman,” “Black Panther,” “Eighth Grade,” “If Beale Street Could Talk,” “The Favourite,” “First Reformed,” “Green Book,” “Mary Poppins Returns,” “A Quiet Place” and “A Star Is Born” were recognized as “culturally and artistically significant” films by the institute.

Netflix's “Roma,” a Spanish-language film not eligible for the main list, was also recognized with an AFI Special Award, honoring films outside the institute's criteria for American film.

On the television side, FX's “The Americans,” “The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story,” “Atlanta” and “Pose.” HBO's “Barry” and “Succession.” AMC's “Better Call Saul,” Netflix's “The Kominsky Method,” Amazon Prime's “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel,” and NBC's “This Is Us” were recognized.

Other news

■ The International Animation Film Society announced its Annie nominations Monday, with Disney/Pixar's “Incredibles 2” (11 nominations) and Disney Animation's “Ralph Breaks the Internet” (10 nods) leading the way, followed by Aardman Animation's “Early Man” and Sony's “Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse,” which landed seven nominations each.

■ Cardi B is no longer feeling the love after little more than a year of marriage to fellow rapper Offset. She posted a video on Instagram saying that “things just haven't been working out between us for a long time.” The 26-year-old says, “I guess we just grew out of love, but we're not together anymore.” Cardi B says “it might take time to get a divorce.” The couple got married in September 2017 and had a baby girl in July.

■ “The Daily Show” host Trevor Noah has lost his voice. Comedian Mike Acosta delivered Noah's monologue for him Tuesday night. Acosta explained that Noah was under doctor's orders not to speak — or he would risk needing surgery. He didn't elaborate on what caused the problem or how long it might last.

■ Bruce Springsteen will not be touring with the E Street Band in 2019, Springsteen on Tuesday posted on Twitter that they hope to be back soon. But The Boss says he wants a break after the “Springsteen on Broadway” show wraps up on Dec. 15 and he's working on other projects.

■ Phil Spector, the Tony Award-winning actor known for his roles in films “Working Girl” and “The Savages,” died Monday. He was 88. Bosco was a Broadway veteran who won a Tony Award in 1939 for best actor for his role as the head of an opera company in the comedy “Lend Me a Tenor.”

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OPINION

Lurid case reinforces what wealth can do

By DAVID VON DREHLE

The Washington Post

If I ask you the Golden Rule, you'll likely answer: Treat others as you wish to be treated; do unto others as you would have them do unto you. But there is another version, the one you're liable to hear around courthouses, in prisons and in other precincts where the rubber of justice meets the road of inequity. It goes like this: Those with the gold make the rules.

I thought of that as I read an investigative series by reporter Julie K. Brown, of the Miami Herald. In three outrage-inducing chapters, Brown documents the white-wash of an alleged global conspiracy to traffic underage girls for sexual exploitation. Though she identified more than 80 likely victims and cited evidence that the actual number could be in the hundreds, the registered sex offender at the center of the conspiracy was allowed to escape jail.

Evidently, it pays to be rich.

The outlines of this story have been known for years. Jeffrey Epstein, a fantastically wealthy creep, ran afoul of the Palm Beach police in 2006 for the parents of a 14-year-old girl he reported that he paid their daughter to strip and massage his naked body while he pleased himself. Investigators soon found evidence — eyewitness testimony and documents — indicating that troubled girls by the dozens were recruited for molestation and rape. The Herald series illuminated the perversion of justice that allowed the perversion of Epstein to go so lightly punished.

Epstein's wealth — the origins of which are a bit murky — assembled an all-star team of defense lawyers, including Alan Dershowitz, the Harvard scholar; Gerald Rusk, the go-to guy for New Yorkers in trouble; Roy Black, the Miami legal magician; and Kenneth W. Starr, whose squeal



PALM BEACH (FLA.) POST/AP

Well-connected financier Jeffrey Epstein settled a civil suit against him Tuesday.

misdeed eventually has limits. The team got busy digging up dirt on the victims and their parents, as well as police and prosecutors, according to sources on the receiving end of this harassment. I'm not normally a person who wonders how defense lawyers sleep at night, but ... yes.

When the wheelbarrow was full, Dershowitz (an acknowledged visitor to the Epstein home, which — according to former employees — was decorated with child pornography) traveled to Palm Beach and dumped it in the prosecutor's lap. Then when the FBI picked up the investigation and began following the trail of alleged abuse to Epstein's other homes in New York, New Mexico, the Virgin Islands and beyond, Epstein's team put similar pressure on the ambitious young U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Florida, Alexander Acosta.

As Brown shows in painful detail, the scorched-earth defense was so effective, Acosta ultimately struck a deal to end the state and federal investigations and shield Epstein from future prosecution for the alleged crimes. It's not clear exactly what pressure protocols are not primarily a defense matter, but it's clear that to the defense team kept news of their agreement

from the alleged victims, thus preventing them from bringing their stories to the attention of the sentencing judge.

Acosta, who is now the secretary of labor, blamed this scandalous conclusion on "defense counsel" who "investigated individual prosecutors and their families, looking for personal peccadilloes." During an interview with The Washington Post last month, Dershowitz boastfully demurred. "We outlasted him," he said.

This much the Herald documented to a revolting fare-thee-well. Left unresolved is whether Epstein's extensive array of powerful friends may have helped him out, too. In the same "little black book" where he kept the names of underage girls around the world available for "massage," Epstein also had contact information for Donald Trump, Bill Clinton, Michael Bloomberg, Prince Andrew, assorted Kennedys and so on.

On Tuesday, Epstein settled a long-delayed civil suit just as jury selection was set to begin. It would have been a chance, finally, for some of Epstein's accusers to be heard in his own court, their official silencing will continue.

Silent, too, is Trump, who once claimed a 15-year acquaintance with Epstein, whom he described as "a lot of fun." Trump noted Epstein's interest in women "on the younger end of Clinton's."

That one of these men occupies the White House, while the other is touring North America on a high-dollar speaking tour with his family, is all that is needed to prove we can stand of the demoralization of a generation of Americans. Two of our past four presidents have been chummy with a registered sex offender. It makes you wonder: What is this country doing unto itself, and when will we stop doing it?

David Von Drehle is a Washington Post columnist. He is the author of "Rise to Greatness: Abraham Lincoln and America's Most Perilous Year."

#MeToo's unintended workplace consequences

By KATHLEEN PARKER

Washington Post Writers Group

A recent Bloomberg News headline came as no surprise: "Wall Street Rule for the #MeToo Era: Avoid Women at All Cost."

In a word, it was inevitable. Some men are so concerned about the possible repercussions of what they might say or do that they're steering clear of women in the workplace altogether. And as a result, according to Bloomberg, Wall Street "risks becoming more of a boy's club, rather than less of one."

The article focused on the various ways some senior executives in finance have been "spooked" by #MeToo and are "struggling to cope" — resorting to staying in different hotel floors from women when on business trips, not dining alone with any woman 35 or younger, leaving an office door open when meeting one-on-one with a junior female. Generally speaking, these might not be such bad rules but for the fact that, as Bloomberg pointed out, young women in finance are being hired at a rate female executives are far scarcer than men on Wall Street. And as one wealth adviser said, simply hiring a woman has become "an unknown risk."

The story called these collateral adjustments the "Pence Effect," referring to Vice President Mike Pence's personal rule of not dining alone with a woman who isn't

his wife. As a cultural aside, many men, especially the religiously devout, as Pence is, try to avoid potentially compromising situations involving the opposite sex. Perception more than temptation is often the driving force.

Further, to be fair, these newly devised workplace protocols are not primarily a function of paranoia but of reality. Every one has seen or experienced how fraught workplace relationships can be — and even casual interactions can seem unnecessarily risky. And this new reality isn't limited to the world of finance. Many men across all industries now fear being alone with a female colleague.

This probably goes without saying, but it's also true that fewer women of the baby boomer generation were likely to think of themselves as victims in instances of workplace harassment, baring sexual assault as opposed to sophomoric buffoonery, or a misinterpretation of context or intent. Perceptions have changed significantly the past several decades, for the good, but we still have much work to do in defining what is and isn't "abuse."

Many ways, this is all-new terrain for us societally. How do we balance the right of every individual to be believed innocent until proven otherwise while also giving accused a platform to be heard? The recent Supreme Court confirmation hearings for Brett Kavanaugh highlighted the impossible position of being forced to prove one's innocence against accusations backed by

no verifiable evidence. We should sleep uneasily in the wake of such an abuse of due process, not as a legal matter but as a time-honored principle of fairness.

We've yet to see the full spectrum of collateral damages to come, but we've gotten a sense of their scope. Already, some men are silencing themselves rather than engaging in a losing battle. Several have told me that, like the wealth adviser Bloomberg interviewed, they're more hesitant to hire women or even to be alone with them. My orthopedist tells me he's no longer comfortable hugging his patients, as he'd always done.

I've had a similar discussion with my dentist. (Apparently, my social life revolves around doctors.) We were chatting about the Kavanaugh hearings and he was visibly tense until I voiced my concerns about the erosion of due process. Relieved to sense a sympathetic point of view, he relaxed and chimed in.

Many men are so intimidated by the #MeToo movement and the plausibility that the too could be ruined on the basis of a single woman's misinterpretation of an innocent gesture that they're essentially shutting down and stepping away. Suffice it to say, this side effect won't serve women well in the long run. Indeed, it seems obvious that they'll suffer.

There surely is a balance to be found lest the sexes further alienate and segregate. We should seek it with a sense of urgency.

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On the cover

Portrait of an unidentified Marine
in Hue city, February 1968.

JOHN OLSON/Stars and Stripes



An eye for combat: Showing the pathos of war

Public attention to Vietnam grew to a fever pitch as the conflict and casualties expanded in the late 1960s. U.S. newspapers and broadcasters invested heavily in their war coverage making stories from the battlefield a daily fixture.

Some of stories and images from Vietnam have left indelible impressions on the American psyche.

Malcolm Browne's Pulitzer-winning photograph of a monk's self-immolation in a Saigon street in 1963.

Nick Ut's 1972 image of a girl burned by napalm for the Associated Press. Eddie Adams' photo of a police chief executing a Viet Cong prisoner.

An image by John Olson, a young photographer with Stars and Stripes, also became one of the most iconic photos of the Vietnam War. Olson spent five days with the Marines at the 1968 battle in Hue, one of more than 100 cities and villages that North Vietnamese forces struck with a surprise attack on the holiday known as Tet. It was the bloodiest single battle of the

Vietnam War.

Olson was 20 when he took the iconic photo, showing wounded Marines on top of a converted tank used as a makeshift ambulance during the Battle of Hue. Mark Bowden, author of "Hue 1968: A Turning Point in the American War in Vietnam," described the photograph in an excerpt in *Vanity Fair* magazine:

"With an artist's eye for composition, Olson captured seven Marines in a tableau worthy of Rembrandt. The palette is one of dark, muddy greens and blues and browns in a grayish light, with shocking splashes of red. Under their helmets, the eyes of the men who face the camera are wide and anxious. They are looking past the photographer fearfully. One man has his entire face wrapped in a thick bandage, with his arm in a sling. Behind him sits a Marine whose face isn't

visible but whose bare leg is smeared with blood. The most striking figure, at the center of the shot, in the foreground, is supine. He has been shot through the center of his chest. He is pale, limp, and half-naked. His shirt has been stripped away and his wound roughly band-

daged. His head is the closest thing to the viewer in the frame. We see him upside-down, his eyes closed beneath dark eyebrows, his head resting on a wooden door that has been used as a makeshift stretcher. He has a full head of wet black hair, and a lean, handsome face with a long aquiline nose and a faint, youthful attempt at a mustache. He looks to be dead, or nearly so."

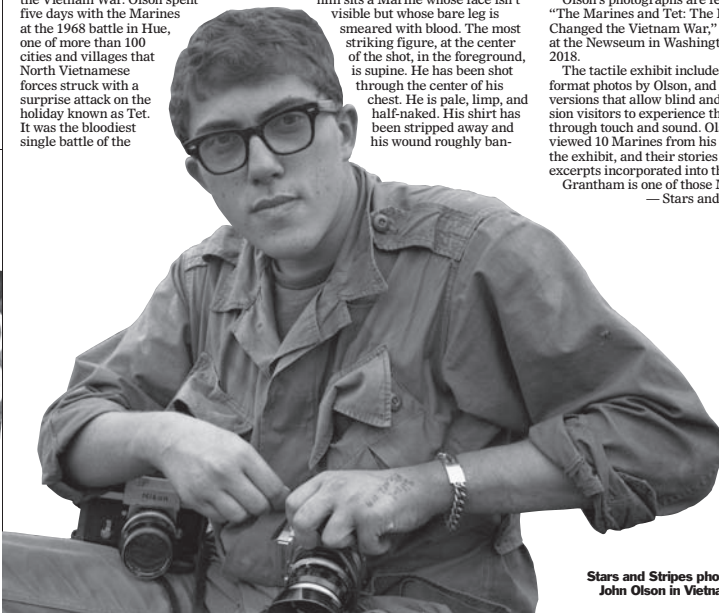
That man was A.B. Grantham, an 18-year-old from Mobile, Ala. He wouldn't see the photo, which landed on the March 1968 cover of *LIFE* magazine, until months into his recovery.

Grantham talked to Stars and Stripes about the battle — online at stars.com/vietnam68 — and the photo is on Page 23 of this special section devoted to Vietnam at 50: 1968.

Olson's photographs are featured in "The Marines and Tet: The Battle That Changed the Vietnam War," an exhibit at the Newseum in Washington through 2018.

The tactile exhibit includes 20 large-format photos by Olson, and 10 tactile versions that allow blind and low-vision visitors to experience the images through touch and sound. Olson interviewed 10 Marines from his photos for the exhibit, and their stories are told in excerpts incorporated into the display.

Grantham is one of those Marines.
— Stars and Stripes staff



Stars and Stripes photographer
John Olson in Vietnam, 1968.

5 Zippo inscriptions

Every Zippo lighter tells a story. In Vietnam, each one said a lot about the person who carried it.

For veteran "Sonny Gunz," his lighters mean everything.

"I'll be buried with my Zippo in my pocket. The hard part will be picking which one," he said in a comment about a YouTube video tour of the Bradford, Pa., factory museum where Zippo lighters were made.

Sherry Buchanan wrote "Vietnam Zippos," devoted to soldiers' engravings and stories from 1965-1973.

"The humble Zippo became a talisman, companion and a canvas for both personal and political expression, engraved with etchings of peace signs and marijuana leaves and slogans steeped in all the rock lyrics, sound bites, combat slang, and antiwar mottos of the time," she writes.

"Part pop art and part military artifact, they collectively capture the large moods of the '60s and the darkest days of Vietnam, all through the world of the tiny Zippo."

Five inscriptions, from the book based on the collection of artist Bradford Edwards:

■ "We are the unwilling/led by the unqualified/Doing the unnecessary/for the ungrateful."

■ "One has never lived till he has almost died. Life has a flavor the protected will never know."

■ "Madre a dios le pido pronto salir de aqui," or "Mother of God I implore you to get me out of here fast."

■ "Fighters by day/Lovers by night/Drunkards by choice/Marines by mistake."

■ "When I die bury me face down so the whole world can kiss my ass."



INTRODUCTION



The end of illusions

By ROBERT H. REID • Stars and Stripes

For the American brass had dreamed of finding a way to draw Viet Cong guerrillas and the North Vietnamese regulars into big head-on fights, where overwhelming U.S. firepower could decimate their ranks and force the Communists into peace talks on U.S. terms. The generals got what they wanted in late January 1968.

As Vietnamese north and south began to celebrate their lunar New Year, or Tet, tens of thousands of Viet Cong guerrillas and North Vietnamese regulars launched their biggest offensive of the war. They struck military and civilian targets — the capital Saigon, 36 provincial capitals, 64 district headquarters — from the Mekong Delta in the south to the Demilitarized Zone in the north.

The two-month offensive made 1968 the deadliest year of the war for the Americans.

The Tet Offensive transformed the Vietnam War — and America itself. By nearly every military metric, Tet and a series of “mini-Tets” that followed were huge defeats for the Communists. They failed to hold any of their major objectives. They failed to trigger a popular uprising against U.S.-backed South Vietnamese government.

Their underground network of civilian cadres and Viet Cong irregulars was nearly destroyed, weakening Communist control in many southern areas and forcing the North Vietnamese to assume a greater burden in the fighting.

Nevertheless, Tet proved to be a decisive strategic victory for the Communists, paving the way for their final victory seven years later. Tet ripped away the façade of optimism carefully crafted by President Lyndon Johnson’s administration and destroyed Americans’ confidence in their government — never fully restored to this day.

It destroyed Johnson’s presidency, opening the door for his successor, President Richard Nixon, who resigned years later in the Watergate scandal.

Tet forced the U.S. political establishment to confront basic questions it had avoided throughout the country’s long descent into war — how long will it take to win in Vietnam, how much will it cost and is victory worth the price?

Over time the answer became “no.”

SEE END ON PAGE 20

A Marine peers through the steel bars of a window into the streets of Hue, South Vietnam, in February 1968. Marines waged a bloody battle with the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army to retake Hue after it was seized during the sprawling Tet Offensive.

JOHN OLSON/Stars and Stripes

End: Hope of victory evaporated in '68

Surprise attack

Three weeks before Tet, the U.S. military briefed Saigon reporters on a Viet Cong notebook found months earlier: "The central headquarters has ordered the entire army and people of South Vietnam to implement a general offensive" with "very strong attacks" to "rally (South Vietnamese) brigades and regiments to our side one by one."

The brass didn't believe it. The notebook had been found near the DMZ, where the Communists were massing for a major assault on the U.S. Marine base at Khe Sanh.

The top U.S. commander, Gen. William C. Westmoreland, believed the notebook was planted by the Communists to trick the U.S. into diverting resources and attention from Khe Sanh. In fact, the Communist plan was the reverse — attack isolated rural positions to draw U.S. forces away from major population centers.

The Communist plan unfolded soon after midnight Jan. 30 when Viet Cong guerrillas backed by North Vietnamese regulars struck six provincial capitals in northern and central South Vietnam with rockets, mortars and ground assaults.

The Communists focused on South Vietnamese army headquarters and the provincial radio stations. However, the early assaults were poorly coordinated. By sunrise nearly all the attacks had been beaten back.

"I saw the possibility of destroying the enemy's will to continue the war," Westmoreland said.

All American and South Vietnamese units were placed on full alert. However, the order came after many South Vietnamese soldiers had been given leave for the Tet holiday, and their units were not at full strength. The next day, Jan. 31, the Communists launched a massive attack at 3 a.m., striking Saigon, American bases at Phi Bai and Chu Lai

in the north, the old imperial capital of Hue and other major towns and bases in the central and south. More assaults followed the next day. In all about 84,000 Communists — southern Viet Cong guerrillas and well-equipped North Vietnamese regulars — joined the fight. Within hours, the whole country was aflame.

In Saigon, the Communists struck major U.S. and South Vietnamese targets. The plan was for small teams to hold out until reinforcements arrived or until the South Vietnamese people rose up against the Americans and the South Vietnamese leadership.

Attackers seized the national broadcast center and planned to air a tape of North Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh declaring an uprising. But South Vietnamese workers cut the cable to the broadcast tower. Communist attackers blew up the station and themselves.

At the U.S. Embassy, a 19-member team blasted a hole in the compound wall, raced inside the four-acre grounds but could not penetrate the main building. They were all killed when American reinforcements arrived.

In the Chinese district of Cholon, house-to-house fighting was so intense that the area was declared a free-fire zone until South Vietnamese Rangers defeated the last holdouts March 7.

To the north, the Communists overran most of the former royal capital of Hue. The 1st Marine Division and South Vietnamese soldiers rushed into the city while the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division and the 101st Airborne Division sealed off supply and escape routes.

In Hue, Marines fought house-to-house in the bloodiest urban combat faced by the Americans since the Battle of Seoul in the Korean War. The city was not recaptured until Feb. 25. Troops found mass graves of up to 2,800 South Vietnamese civilians — men, women and children — massacred by the Communists.

A Marine talks on the radio as his comrades watch for the enemy in Hue, South Vietnam, in February 1968.

PHOTOS BY JOHN OLSON/Stars and Stripes

Back home

With the recapture of Hue, the worst of the Tet Offensive was over. To the north, the Army's 1st Cavalry Division broke the siege of the Marines at Khe Sanh on April 8.

Back home, the effects of Tet roiled the nation. The American people were unprepared for images of young Americans slaughtered in a distant land.

CBS News Anchorman Walter Cronkite visited Vietnam and returned with a grim report delivered on the most widely watched news show in America. "It is increasingly clear to this reporter that the only rational way out then will be to negotiate, not as victims, but as an honorable people who lived up to their pledge to defend democracy and do the best they could."

The U.S. military saw things differently. With the Communists on their heels, Westmoreland believed it was time for a major counterstrike, with attacks on sanctuaries in Laos and Cambodia and across the DMZ into North Vietnam.

He asked for more than 100,000 reinforcements.

But Johnson and his inner circle feared that Westmoreland's request would force a huge increase in the unpopular draft and bankrupt the Treasury if the U.S. were to maintain its Cold War commitments worldwide.

In early March, anti-war Sen. Eugene McCarthy nearly tied Johnson in the New Hampshire Democratic primary. Four days later, Sen. Robert Kennedy entered the race. Two World War II icons, Gen. Omar Bradley and Gen. Maxwell Taylor, told Johnson the war was lost.

On March 31, Johnson went on national television to announce a near halt in the bombing of North Vietnam, an offer to negotiate peace — and that he would not seek re-election.

Gone was the hope of victory. But the war — and the dying — would drag on for years.

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The Rev. Aloysius McGonigal administers last rites to a U.S. Marine in Hue. In 1968, Americans were increasingly exposed to television news reports of casualties in Vietnam.



JANUARY

Tet Offensive transforms the war

By WYATT OLSON • Stars and Stripes

For both sides, the Tet Offensive and the events of 1968 shattered illusions that had driven strategy on the battlefield since the United States entered the war in strength three years earlier.

The North Vietnamese grossly miscalculated the amount of support they enjoyed within the South Vietnamese population. The Communists in Hanoi saw the political turmoil in the South — coups, corruption and religious tension — and assumed the southern population would rise up against their government and the Americans.

Without that uprising, the Communists suffered horrific casualties, especially within the Viet Cong infrastructure they had spent years building up within South Vietnam.

For the Americans, 1968 destroyed the very foundation of Gen. William C. Westmoreland's "war of attrition" strategy. Simply stated, the idea was that if the U.S. and South Vietnamese could inflict more casualties than the North could replace, the Communists would eventually sue for peace.

Since 1965, the challenge had been to draw the Communists into big fights where overwhelming American firepower could prevail. Instead, U.S. and South Vietnamese mostly conducted search-and-destroy missions, often under dense forest canopies. When the enemy did initiate attack, it quickly faded back into the bush when faced with superior U.S. force and airpower.

That dynamic changed overnight Jan. 30, 1968, as the divided country prepared to celebrate what many expected to be a quiet Tet, the Vietnamese name for its lunar New Year's Day.

SEE TET ON PAGE 22

A wounded child caught in the crossfire on the streets of Hue is carried to safety by a U.S. Marine medic. In early 1968, the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army launched a coordinated series of attacks in South Vietnam that changed the perception of the war among the American public and U.S. political leadership.

JOHN OLSON/Stars and Stripes



Tet: Military leaders, public had different perspectives on assaults

FROM PAGE 21

Instead of celebrations, 80,000 Viet Cong guerrillas and North Vietnamese regulars stormed more than 100 towns and cities across South Vietnam. The surprise assaults included parts of Saigon, the southern capital, as well as U.S. and South Vietnamese military bases, supply depots and airstrips.

Shaking off the shock of such widespread offensive, U.S. military commanders quickly mounted counteroffensives with about a half million American troops in country.

Within weeks, most of the Communist fighters had been decimated or driven into the countryside.

"For the Americans, this was a positive development, that the enemy wasn't running away this time," said Gregory Daddis, an associate professor of history at Chapman University in Orange, Calif. Military leaders saw the rout as a turning point in the conflict, with the chance to strike a fatal blow to a weakened enemy to achieve victory.

"Some of them were even gleeful, saying that this was just what we wanted," said Christian Appy, a professor of history at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and author of three books on the Vietnam War.

"The enemy had come out into the open where we could see them and where we could bring our enormous firepower to bear on them," he said.

Some professional soldiers saw parallels to the Battle of the Bulge in World War II, where the Germans mounted a strong offensive and inflicted major casualties before the attack

was contained and repulsed. Germany surrendered about five months later.

What the military saw as a victory, however, the American public and its political leadership saw as a defeat.

"It was the turning point by which the majority of American people finally concluded the war was either not worth the cost or was a mistake," James Willbanks, author of "The Tet Offensive: A Concise History" and a professor of military history at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College in Leavenworth, Kan. "And a growing number had concluded that it was immoral."

Unlike World War II, the public wasn't prepared for such bloodshed. Instead, the White House and Pentagon had been spinning that success was just around the corner.

Two months before Tet, Westmoreland said in Washington that U.S. forces had reached a point where "the end begins to come into view" and that "the enemy's hopes are bankrupt."

"Through 1967, it's hard to exaggerate how much effort the White House put into — and it even called it this — the 'success campaign,' propaganda campaign, to convince the American people that the war was going in the right direction, even when internally they weren't at all sure," Appy said.

Trust in government was high enough that most Americans believed what they had been told.

"For an American public that is increasingly persuaded by

that argument, when the Tet Offensive happens, there seems to be a disconnect between what they've been told and what they're seeing on the ground," Daddis said. Millions of young men in and out of uniform began to ask "Why am I risking my life if we're not even going to win?"

Public reaction was all the stronger because of horrific images beamed to living rooms across the United States in the "first television war."

Offices and homes of the Western press corps were clustered mainly in downtown Saigon, within walking distance of the presidential palace and U.S. Embassy, both major targets. While the number of Communist fighters who attacked those targets was small, the media images gave Americans a glimpse

of a level of violence they were unprepared to see.

Westmoreland died of the media coverage as too obsessed with "gloom and doom," said Peter Arnett,

a Pulitzer Prize winning Saigon correspondent for The Associated Press.

"Speaking for my colleagues working in Saigon at that time, our intention was to report and photograph the reality of what we were seeing before our eyes every day," he said. "Our coverage was as professional as we could achieve under difficult circumstances. That our coverage was said to polarize the American public's view of the war was not our intent."

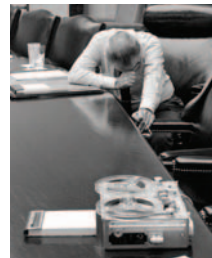
Nevertheless, the impact of the reports was clear. Even as fighting raged, President Lyndon Johnson announced he would not seek re-election and offered to negotiate with the North Vietnamese. Johnson's successor, Richard Nixon, withdrew U.S. troops in 1973. Two years later, the North Vietnamese defeated the South and reunited the country under Communist rule.

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Stars and Stripes

Bodies litter the street corner near South Vietnam's national radio station in Saigon. The station building — just a few blocks from the American Embassy — was one of the main strategic targets of the North Vietnamese Army's Tet Offensive.

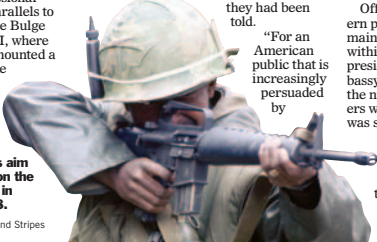


Courtesy of the LBJ Presidential Library

President Lyndon B. Johnson listens to tape sent from Vietnam by his son-in-law, Capt. Charles Robb, in the Cabinet Room of the White House on July 31, 1968. Johnson lost what little stomach he had for the war after Tet, and he had announced March 31 that he would not run for re-election.

A Marine takes aim with his M16 on the streets of Hue in February 1968.

JOHN OLSON/Stars and Stripes



Vietnam movies:



Real or reel?

Journalist, historian and author Marc Leepson — also a Vietnam veteran — rated some of the most popular Vietnam War movies for realism. Which nail the details, and which raise enormous red flags? In no particular order:

5 most realistic

"B4 Charlie MoPic," 1989
"Full Metal Jacket," 1987
"Platoon," 1986
"Born on the Fourth of July," 1989
"We Were Soldiers," 2002



5 least realistic

"The Deer Hunter," 1978
"Apocalypse Now," 1979
"Good Morning, Vietnam," 1987
"The Green Berets," 1968
"Missing in Action," 1984



FEBRUARY



JOHN OLSON/Stars and Stripes

Pfc. A.B. Grantham, foreground, and other wounded Marines receive medical attention as they are evacuated on a tank during the fierce fighting of the Tet Offensive. Grantham, an 18-year-old from Mobile, Ala., was unconscious and struggling to breathe after being shot in the chest; another Marine took cellophane from cigarette packs and stuffed it in his wound before wrapping it in bandages.

Hue: In their own words



Video: During the battle, 18-year-old U.S. Marine Pfc. A.B. Grantham of Mobile, Ala., was shot in the chest by a North Vietnamese soldier.

"I was looking right down the barrel of the gun," Grantham recalled.

Story and photos: Then-Gunnery Sgt. John Canley received a Navy Cross for his actions in one of the bloodiest battles of the war. That honor was upgraded this year, when the retired Marine sergeant major was presented with the Medal of Honor.

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Brutal battle

Fight to retake Hue was war's longest, bloodiest

By **WYATT OLSON**
Stars and Stripes

As 1968 dawned, Hue in South Vietnam had largely been spared the violence of war.

The city, the 150-year seat of Vietnam's final dynasty, was venerated by Vietnamese in the north and south.

That all changed Jan. 30, 1968, when North Vietnamese Army regulars, or NVA, and Viet Cong guerrillas seized Hue as part of the Tet Offensive, the bloodiest battle American troops faced in the Vietnam War.

On the ground, the battle ended as a decisive victory for American and South Vietnamese victory after nearly a month of intense combat. But media images of dead and wounded Ma-

rines, hollow-eyed refugees and a city laid waste undermined the official U.S. narrative that the enemy was demoralized and the end of the war was within sight.

"The whole city just stank of corruption and rotting and death and cordite," said Dale Dye, a Marine Corps correspondent and veteran of the 26-day battle.

"It was, I guess, the one battle that still haunts me because you saw so many things," he said. "I don't think it was because I was

naïve; I think it was because it was that brutal."

Today, Hue is a tourist mecca with little evidence of war. Tourists stroll through the open grounds of the sprawling, reconstructed imperial Citadel, where hundreds died in close-quarters combat.

As the lunar New Year began in 1968, 10 battalions of Viet Cong and NVA swept into Hue, divided by the Perfume River, with the Citadel to the north

and the newer part of the city — filled with French colonial-style buildings — to the south. The sole U.S. presence in Hue had been a headquarters compound of the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, or MACV. "Essentially overnight the VC and NVA captured the whole city," said James Willbanks, author of "The Tet Offensive: A Concise History" and a professor at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College in Leaven-

"We realized very quickly that we were in a mess here and that this was no small uprising. This was serious business."

Dale Dye

Marine Corps correspondent and veteran of the 26-day Battle of Hue

worth, Kan.

Marines from Phu Bai, about 8 miles south of Hue, were the first relief to arrive and help defend the MACV compound.

Dye was at Phu Bai, along with Steve Berntsen, a fellow combat correspondent, when he heard about some kind of dustup in Hue, despite the North's announcement that it would observe a seven-day Tet ceasefire. "It became obvious on the trip up that something was wrong, because we didn't see many people out to celebrate," Dye said. "All hell broke loose" as his convoy entered southern Hue.

SEE BRUTAL ON PAGE 24

5 more notable battles from '68

Excerpted from "Brutal Battles of Vietnam, America's Deadliest Days," edited by Richard K. Kolt and "dedicated to the 58,275 Americans who sacrificed their lives in the Vietnam War." The book, published by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, covers 1965-1972.



Killing Zone at Hoc Mon, March 2

"In perhaps the Vietnam War's deadliest single engagement in terms of time and KIA's, 48 men of Company C, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry, 25th Division were killed by the Viet Cong in just 8 minutes on March 2, 1968, north of Saigon."

'Walking Dead' on Hill 689, April 16

"The 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, which earned the nickname 'The Walking Dead' in Vietnam, lost 42 men in a fight so fierce they were forced to leave men behind."

'Magnificent Bastards' battle at Dai Do, May

"Vastly outnumbered, the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines, nonetheless halted an NVA thrust into Quang Tri province in early May 1968 in one of the war's epic battles."

Street battle in Saigon, May 7-13

"From the ride paddies of the Mekong Delta, battalions of four regiments of the 9th Infantry Division were suddenly plunged into urban combat in Saigon's District 8 during the so-called Mini Tet Offensive of May 1968."

'Storm of Steel': Ap Trang Dau, Sept. 6

"For 30 minutes in the early morning darkness of Sept. 6, the 187th Infantry's Alpha Company (96 men) fended off more than 600 Communists, losing 28 percent of its men."



JOHN OLSON/Stars and Stripes

Two U.S. Marines try to help a fellow Marine, severely wounded in the battle for the tower guarding the Eastern Gate of the walled Citadel in Hue, South Vietnam. The Marines, who fought a grueling battle to retake the city, were obsessed with seeing the Viet Cong flag lowered.

Brutal: Marines had not been trained for urban fighting in Hue

FROM PAGE 23

"We realized very quickly that we were in a mess here and that this was no small uprising. This was serious business," he said.

When Berntsen's convoy crossed the final canal bridge into the south side of Hue, it came under intense fire by machine guns, mortars and grenades. The convoy reached the MACV compound, and soon after, the enemy blew up the bridge.

The immediate problem facing the Marines was that they had no training for urban fighting.

Berntsen said "the guys who grew up in the big cities" took the lead in this new style of fighting in Vietnam.

"They knew how to move and maneuver and how to get around in the city, in city blocks, in buildings," he said. "They pretty much took charge of leading the squads into the buildings, up the stairs."

The Marines spent about 10 days clearing buildings along Le Loi Street, which paralleled the Perfume River. Many of them were large complexes fortified by the NVA for battle to the last man, Berntsen said.

On a second-floor hospital ward an enemy fighter posing as a patient leaped out of bed and fired an AK-47. A nurse charged up a stairwell, firing a Kalashnikov automatic rifle as she went.

By Feb. 12, the south side of Hue had largely been secured.

"Everybody began to turn and look across the river knowing that we would have to go over and eventually attack the Citadel," Dye said.

Fight for the Citadel

The massive Citadel was a square of fortified stone walls, with each side about a mile long. Most of the wall was about 2 yards thick. Surrounding the entire thing was a moat.

Inside was a warren of small shops and homes surrounding the Imperial City, another walled bastion at the core of the Citadel.

Tens of thousands of laborers worked for 30 years to build the Citadel. Almost all of the Imperial City's 160 buildings were destroyed in two weeks.

The Marines began a concerted assault on the Citadel on Feb. 13. Berntsen, exhausted, hungry, and "pretty much numbed" had a chance to go back to the Marine base camp.

But there was a Viet Cong flag flying over the Citadel.

"That had become an obsession with the Marines — including myself — and I wanted to be there to see that when it was taken down," he said.

The Marines were ordered to push from north to south inside the Imperial City wall.

"We organized ourselves in a line and tried to sweep southward, but people were getting shot up and we were running into ambushes and having to clear houses so that line just never really held all it could," Dye said.

"That really turned into a meat grinder, because they had those walls and we were down on the streets. It was brutal."

In the jungle, troops rarely saw the enemy, only fleeting shadows

or a muzzle flash, Dye said.

"But that wasn't the case in Hue," he said. "I mean, you saw those guys, you saw them put the rifle on their shoulder and shoot at you. You see them everywhere."

Reinforcements were rushed in so quickly that some of the dead still had airline boarding passes in their pockets, Dye said.

"There just never seemed to be an end to it," Dye recalled. "The more we killed, the more we found."

Berntsen joined a corpsman atop one of the Citadel walls to help carry out a wounded Marine. Berntsen spied a nearby shutter door that could be used

as a stretcher. The next thing he recalled was waking up in the middle of the street with shrapnel "still burning in my arm and my legs and my back."

He'd been hit by an armor-piercing rocket. Berntsen was rushed to an aid station, beginning a year of healing that included numerous operations.

By Feb. 25, the Citadel had been recaptured.

"I don't remember anyone doing anything but staring around the area," Dye said. "It was so grinding, so exhausting, that the only high you got, really, was the fact that you were alive for the next 15 minutes."

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My Lai: 'A stain on the Army'

Story and photos: The causes and aftermath of the March 16, 1968, atrocity and its cover-up. Who was to blame?

Obituary: Capt. Ernest L. Medina, the company commander accused and acquitted of responsibility for killing hundreds of Vietnamese civilians.

Profile: Aubrey Daniel, who successfully prosecuted Lt. William Calley for mass murder for his part in the 1968 My Lai Massacre

Update: A look at what happened to some of the key players.

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In their words

The Vietnam War experience, from those who lived it



"I am not going to lose Vietnam. I am not going to be the president who saw Southeast Asia go the way China went."

Newly inaugurated President Lyndon Johnson at a White House meeting Nov. 24, 1963, responding to U.S. ambassador to South Vietnam Henry Cabot Lodge Jr.

"You can kill 10 of my men for every one I kill of yours, but even at those odds, you will lose and I will win."

Viet Minh leader Ho Chi Minh in a warning to French colonialists in 1946

"We are fighting a war with no front lines, since the enemy hides among the people, in the jungles and mountains, and uses covertly border areas of neutral countries. One cannot measure [our] progress by lines on a map."

Gen. William C. Westmoreland, the commander of all U.S. military forces in Vietnam, in a speech to a joint session of Congress on April 28, 1967

"We didn't have a race problem. We had a leadership problem. Period."

Marine Sgt. Maj. John Canley, who is African-American, was awarded the Medal of Honor in October 2018 for his efforts during the Battle of Hue, one of the bloodiest battles of the Vietnam War.

"Our present course [in Vietnam] will not bring victory; will not bring peace; will not stop the bloodshed; and will not advance the interests of the United States or the cause of peace in the world."

Robert F. Kennedy, March 19, 1968

"Greeting: You are hereby ordered for induction in the Armed Forces of the United States."

Selective Service System notice. In 1967, more than 300,000 American men opened envelopes with this statement inside.

"We arrived as strangers; we left as brothers. We didn't think we were special. We just tried to do what was right. And when we came home, we had a simple saying: Every day is extra. I used my extra days to join other veterans to end a war I believed was wrong. I saw courage both in the Vietnam War and in the struggle to stop it. I learned that patriotism includes protest, not just military service."

John Kerry, recalling his service in announcing his candidacy for president in September 2003

"You're not a baby boomer if you don't have a visceral recollection of a Kennedy and a King assassination, a Beatles breakup, a U.S. defeat in Vietnam, and a Watergate."

P.J. O'Rourke, American political satirist and journalist

"For it seems now more certain than ever, that the bloody experience of Vietnam is to end in a stalemate."

Walter Cronkite at the close of the CBS Evening News broadcast Feb. 27, 1968, reporting on a trip to Vietnam in the aftermath of the Tet Offensive

5 best books on the Vietnam War

According to writer Karl Marlantes, Vietnam veteran, Rhodes Scholar and Yale graduate. In 1977, the former Marine began writing a novel about his experience in combat. "Matterhorn" took Marlantes 30 years to write.

'A Rumor of War,' by Philip Caputo

1977

"One of the first really well-written books that describe the moral ambiguities and difficulties faced by a young Marine officer in this particular war."

'The Things They Carried,' by Tim O'Brien

1990

"... A series of short stories involving those things ... that bring you to reality."



'The Sorrow of War,' by Bao Ninh

1987

"Reading this piece of writing about an individual soldier in a war on the other side was just very moving for me."

'Fields of Fire,' by James Webb

1978

"Webb understands the warrior mentality. ... a lot of people like to think that we all hate war, and warriors hate war too, but there's something in them that makes them good at it, that makes them think: 'I can't wait for the next one.'"

'365 Days,' by Ronald J. Glasser

1971

"One of the great examples of breaking through the statistics ... An Army doctor showing the human side of war 'casualties.'"

From fivebooks.com, which asks experts to recommend the five best books on their subject and explain those choices.



The war, by the numbers

4

Dead in Ohio. Kent State University students killed by Ohio National Guard on May 4, 1970, during demonstrations after the invasion of Cambodia. It spawned antiwar protests and riots on hundreds of other campuses.



Mary Ann Vecchio screams as she kneels by the body of a student shot at Kent State in Kent, Ohio, on May 4, 1970.

AP

8

American women whose deaths were reported in Vietnam during the war.

20

The age that a U.S. servicemember was most likely to die in the war. Sixty-one percent of the men killed were 21 or younger.

Republican Richard Nixon scored a convincing victory in the 1968 presidential election.



32

States carried by the Republicans in the 1968 election of President Richard M. Nixon, with 302 electoral votes. (270 were needed to win.) Hubert H. Humphrey won 13 states and Washington, D.C., with 191 electoral votes. George Wallace carried five states, with 45 electoral votes.

77

Days, the length of the siege of Khe Sanh, which began Jan. 21, 1968, and was one of the longest and bloodiest battles in Vietnam.

246

Largest number of U.S. forces killed in action in a single day, occurring Jan. 31, 1968.



JOHN OLSON/Stars and Stripes

Newly arrived troops of 6th Battalion, 31st Infantry, 9th Infantry Division, pick up their weapons from the crates on the tarmac at an unidentified airport in South Vietnam in April 1968. The U.S. reached its peak of 543,482 servicemembers that month.



JOHN OLSON/Stars and Stripes

Three body bags are lined up awaiting evacuation from Khe Sanh base Jan. 25, 1968. The base was hit by North Vietnamese mortar and artillery fire, and the siege lasted 77 days.

336

Blue plastic capsules containing the birthdays chosen in the first Vietnam draft lottery drawing Dec. 1, 1969.



According to court testimony, this Vietnamese woman was killed in the My Lai Massacre just after this photo was taken March 16, 1968.

RONALD L. HAEERLE
Courtesy of the U.S. Army

500

Estimate of how many unarmed civilians — old men, women and children — were killed March 16, 1968, by U.S. soldiers in what would be called the My Lai Massacre. Lt. William Calley was found guilty of premeditated murder. His sentence was repeatedly reduced, until it was commuted to time served by Nixon.

1,601

Vietnam soldiers unaccounted for, as of January 2018. The total of American servicemen listed as POW/MIA at the end of the war was 2,646.

14,933

The highest number of U.S. combat deaths for any year in the war, for 1968.

\$30,000

Cost of one sortie for a B-52 bomber.

500,000

Estimated number of missions flown by medevac helicopters.

543,482

Peak U.S. troop strength in Vietnam (April 30, 1968), according to vietnamwar50th.com.

AUGUST



PHOTOS BY WARREN K. LEFFLER/Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division

A young "hippie" stands in front of a row of National Guard soldiers, across the street from the Hilton Hotel at Grant Park, at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, on Aug. 26, 1968.

A nation divided

Chicago Democratic convention in '68 embodies clash over future of America

BY DIANNA CAHN
Stars and Stripes

On Aug. 28, 1968, the streets of Chicago exploded into violence. Antiwar protesters, defiant and bloodied, poured onto Michigan Avenue, determined to reach the International Amphitheatre, where the Democratic National Convention was in its third day.

Police officers, exhausted and at the end of their rope, didn't hold back. They pounded into the protesters with clubs and tear gas, striking indiscriminately and pressing the crowd back into Grant Park. At the back of the

park, hundreds were up against a plate glass window of the Hilton Hotel. It shattered, allowing an outlet for those being crushed and adding shards of broken glass to the bloody mix.

Television cameras captured the gruesome scenes live, as protesters chanted: "The whole world is watching."

The violence was the climax of a week of unprecedented clashes outside a national political convention. Inside, a divided Democratic Party sought a way forward toward the 1968 presidential elections.

Party leaders had just voted down a peace plank in the party platform, infuriating antiwar delegates, when NBC News made the fateful decision to cut away from the angry exchanges on the convention floor and broadcast the violence unfolding in the

streets. CBS soon followed suit. The scenes outside were visible on screens inside the conventional hall.

Sen. Abraham Ribicoff stood to nominate peace candidate George McGovern. Then he looked directly at Chicago Mayor and Democratic Party Boss Richard Daley and declared: "With George McGovern as president of the United States, we wouldn't have these Gestapo tactics on the streets of Chicago!"

Daley shouted back, calling on the senator to leave the podium, and reportedly shouting epithets. The hall erupted in shouts and jeers.

The American system was faltering. And the world was watching.

SEE DIVIDED ON PAGE 28



An Illinois delegate at the 1968 Democratic National Convention reacts to Sen. Abraham Ribicoff's nominating speech for George McGovern in which he criticized the tactics of the Chicago police against anti-Vietnam war protesters.

Divided: Escalation of war, assassinations left Americans shaken

Coming apart

It had been a year of turmoil. A dramatic and unexpected escalation in the Vietnam War unsettled the nation — and the presidency of Lyndon B. Johnson. It lifted the veil of an imminent victory, and many Americans began to conclude that their leaders had been lying to them. Two champions of change were assassinated, unleashing riots and clashes with police and military troops on city streets. Election-year politics mirrored that unrest, exposing deep divisions that were rumbling through the Democratic Party like an earthquake.

Some have said this was the year America came apart. If so, the Chicago Democratic National Convention was the fault line, the combustible meeting of machine party politics and an angry uprising, giving voice to ordinary citizens who had grown to feel betrayed — their war blinders lifted and race frustrations exploding.

"The 1968 Chicago convention became a lacerating event, a distillation of a year of heart-break, assassinations, riots and a breakdown of law and order that made it seem as if the country were coming apart," the late Pulitzer Prize-winning political writer Haynes Johnson, who covered the convention, wrote in a commemorative article for Smithsonian Magazine in 2008.

"In its psychic impact and its long-term political consequences, it eclipsed any other such convention in American history, destroying faith in politicians, in the political system, in the country and its institutions," Johnson wrote. "No one who was there or who watched it on television could escape the memory of what took place before their eyes."

"In its psychic impact and its long-term political consequences, it eclipsed any other such convention in American history, destroying faith in politicians, in the political system, in the country and its institutions. No one who was there or who watched it on television could escape the memory of what took place before their eyes."

Haynes Johnson

Pulitzer-winning political writer, in a 2008 Smithsonian article

On the streets, a cross-section of revolutionary youth tested the limits of their rights — to oppose the war, to reform racial or social injustices or to hold provocative, drug- and sex-infused theatrical events to challenge the system all pulling at the seams of law and order.

Inside the convention was a Democratic Party in disarray. Johnson, the party leader who had swept to victory four years earlier, dropped out over opposition to the war. Peace candidates splintered the party further, and race issues led a third-party candidate to peel off the party. The old guard was holding firm to its control over choosing delegates, but demands for greater popular selection was mounting.

Daley made clear his intent: to keep control of the Illinois delegates and to keep order on the streets. Angry standoffs, the threats of violence and a sense that the system was no longer working bubbled up inside and outside.

"This was part of a clash ... which was really a fight over the future of the country," said Dick Simpson, professor of political

science at the University of Illinois, Chicago, who ran Eugene McCarthy's Chicago campaign in 1968. "And each person who was involved, whether they were in the convention hall, whether they were in the streets, whether they were police or protesters or delegates — thought that whatever happened, the future of the country depended on them and their friends. And they were angry at the other side."

"There were few people in the middle of this question," Simpson said, speaking in Chicago in August at a 50th anniversary event organized by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. "It was an important clarifying clash out of which our history is made."

An eruption brewing

The year had left Americans shaken.

Television brought the war into people's living rooms, making it impossible to ignore. The attack on the U.S. Embassy in Saigon — perhaps seen as Ground Zero for U.S. control — was broadcast live, interrupting Johnny Carson on "The Tonight Show."

Death tolls climbed all year, beginning with the Tet Offensive in late January, when North Vietnamese forces and Viet Cong launched fierce surprise attacks on cities and bases all over South Vietnam.

By May 1968, the bloodiest month since the start of the war, the tally of American dead had reached more than 2,400. As the fighting raged and peace talks mired in stalemate, the antiwar movement only grew. Many Americans woke up to the idea that the war could not be won militarily.

"Our enemy savagely striking at will across all of South Vietnam has finally shattered the mask of official illusion with which we have concealed our true circumstances," Robert Kennedy said in a speech in Chicago in February, weeks before he entered the presidential race promising to seek a peace settlement.

Uprisings erupting in European capitals — in France, student protests led to a nationwide strike that brought its economy to a standstill — emboldened the American movement. In late

April, students occupied several buildings at Columbia University for a week, forcing the campus to shut down before over 700 were arrested and more than 100 injured.

Meanwhile, Kennedy's candidacy spurred Johnson to drop out of the race but it divided the party's peace camp that had been backing McCarthy. Race issues had been taking a parallel but largely separate path, with Martin Luther King Jr. supporting the antiwar movement while focusing on the rights of blacks in America. His assassination in April led to unprecedented rioting across the country. Kennedy's assassination in June was yet another jolting blow for the party and the country at large. Deep, divisive social issues were converging in the shock of a nation.

"What had been brewing in this country was this tremendous resentment that seemed to just explode with these two events," said Bernard Sieracki, a Korean War veteran, professor and retired political lobbyist in Illinois, speaking at the Lincoln library event.

This seething storyline reached crescendo in August as thousands of protesters descended on Chicago, bent on disrupting the convention. Daley, who had responded to riots in Chicago following King's assassination by giving police the order to "shoot to kill any arsonists or anyone with a Molotov cocktail," called up 12,000 police officers. Backing them up were nearly 6,000 Illinois National Guard and 5,000 Army soldiers.

The International Amphitheatre was cordoned off and demonstrators were not given permits to protest.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29



Above: The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. stands with other civil rights leaders on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn., on April 3, 1968, a day before he was assassinated at approximately the same place. From left are Hosea Williams, Jesse Jackson, King and Ralph Abernathy.

AP

Right: Sen. Robert Kennedy awaits medical assistance as he lies on the floor of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles moments after he was shot June 5, 1968. Juan Romero, a 17-year-old busboy, kneels by his side.

LOS ANGELES TIMES/AP

FROM PAGE 28

Antiwar protesters led by New Left leaders Rennie Davis, Tom Hayden and underground magazine editor David Dellinger mobilized under the umbrella of MOBE, or the National Mobilization to End the War in Vietnam. They never reached the tens of thousands they'd hoped, but they were organized and had practiced street-fighting tactics and plotted methods to taunt and incite police.

Social revolutionaries and anarchists, led by Jerry Rubin, Abbie Hoffman and others, organized a "Festival for Life" under the moniker Yippies, or the Youth International Party. They nominated a pig for president and promised disruption of the political system by putting on a freewheeling countercultural theater to draw attention to their antics in the streets and away from the convention.

Police lined the streets with sticks, shields, helmets and tear gas. National Guardsmen, with heavy vehicles draped in razor wire, waited in reserve.

Both sides were agitated and ready.

"There was a swelling up of apocalyptic feeling, a sense of chaos, a sense of astonishment and shock," Todd Gitlin, who had presided over Students for a Democratic Society in 1964 and '65, said in an interview in August with *The Nation* magazine. "Everything is accelerated; old centers are not holding. Some people think that what's coming is a revolution. Others think that what's coming is fascism. Whatever is coming, is coming fast and precipitously."

From inside the hall, newsman Walter Cronkite described the scene on the streets of Chicago as the convention got underway Aug. 26.

"In the name of security, freedom of the press, freedom of movement, perhaps as far as the demonstrators themselves are concerned, even freedom of speech have been severely restricted here. A Democratic convention is about to begin in a police state."

Inside, outside

The convention opened to what Haynes Johnson called "an abiding pessimism."

Vice President Hubert Humphrey had sat out the primaries, but with the president's withdrawal leaving a vacuum in party leadership, Humphrey became the establishment candidate. McCarthy had won a significant number of delegates, but party practice dictated that the winner take all the delegates and meant that the McCarthy camp was relegated to a position of protest. Sen. George McGovern, a late entry into the race, had rallied many of Kennedy's backers, but they too were powerless.

Calls for reform in the party's delegate selection were bubbling up to the surface. Each day, beset by the knowledge that on the other side a Republican Party rallying behind Nixon looked set to win in November, delegates and party leaders faced off in heated shouting matches that lasted into the early morning.

Hired guards on the conven-



LBJ Library photo by Yoichi Okamoto

The first family watches the 1968 Democratic National Convention. From left, Luci Baines Johnson, aide Tom Johnson (no relation), unidentified man and Lynda Johnson Robb. In bed are President Lyndon B. Johnson and Lady Bird Johnson.

tion floor kept tight control. The camera captured CBS reporter Dan Rather getting strong-armed as he tried to interview a delegate who was being escorted out. Rather was heard on microphone saying, "Take your hands off me unless you plan to arrest me."

"We tried to talk to the man and we got violently pushed out of the way," Rather said a few minutes later on air. "This is the kind of thing that has been going on outside the hall; this is the first time we've had it happen inside the hall. We ... I'm sorry to be out of breath, but somebody belted me in the stomach during that."

Outside, clashes between protesters and police were growing increasingly violent. Protesters rallied, gave speeches and some played cat-and-mouse with police, defying curfews, trying to break through cordons and throwing things to try to anger them.

With growing frequency, the National Guard were called in to replace exhausted city cops who grew increasingly violent.

Taylor Penseau, a political author and retired professor who covered the 1968 convention for the *St. Louis-Post Dispatch*, said the Guard under the command of Brig. Gen. Richard Dunn performed as they had been trained. Though many were also just kids, they maintained discipline and refrained from using live ammunition.

Police, however, "took the taunting and insults [only] so long, and their patience ran out," Penseau said at the Lincoln library event. "It was my impression they felt they had a green light from Mayor Daley's office to forcibly try to suppress the disruption of the convention."

By Wednesday, the anger had

reached a climax inside and outside the hall.

Inside, it became clear that the party bosses were going to maintain control. The antiwar voice was being quashed and the fighting grew more bitter.

"We were in a struggle over the future of democracy," said Simpson, a McCarthy campaigner. "What was our city, our state, our nation going to look like? Which kind of president were we going to elect? Were we going to continue the war in Vietnam? Were we going to continue racial discrimination in its worst form? Were we going to continue the imperial presidency when the president could get away with the kinds of things Nixon got away with at Watergate?"

Outside, the protesters attempted to march down Michigan Avenue to the International Amphitheatre and the television cameras turned on them live.

Ron Ferrizzi, a helicopter chief fighting in Vietnam, was in Australia for R&R that week. Ferrizzi, who was featured in the PBS documentary "The Vietnam War," described thinking the Russians had invaded Czechoslovakia when he turned on the TV and saw a storm trooper "smacking a kid with a bat, and there's blood everywhere and rioting."

Then he realized this was Chicago. "At that moment I was politicized," Ferrizzi said in the documentary. "I realized that anybody who really cared for America was sent halfway around the world, chasing some ghost in the jungle, killing somebody else's grandmother for no reason at all and in the meantime, my country is being torn apart."

"I saw somebody who looked like my dad hitting somebody who looked like me. Oh my God, whose side would I be on?"

On the last night of the convention, after Humphrey was selected, Kennedy supporters stood and repeatedly sang the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," refusing to sit down. Humphrey supporters started booing. Then fights broke out.

The party bosses had won. The war would go on for several more years. And the hopes for change from the establishment had been quashed.

Inside and outside, a national wound was exposed.

"The violence ... throughout that week, much of it captured live on television, confirmed both the Democrat's pessimism and the country's judgment of a political party torn by dissension and disunity," Haynes Johnson wrote.

Aftermath

For many years after the convention, Nixon and the Republican Party appeared to be the big winners, with Nixon sweeping the electoral votes in 1968 and trouncing McGovern in 1972.

President Donald Trump is now the sixth Republican president since 1968; there have been half as many Democrats.

Within the Democratic Party, the fault line that cracked wide open led to significant reform of the electoral process with the introduction of primaries, so that the selection of the party nominees would no longer be governed solely by the insider establishment. But the new system has its own issues, and super delegates could be considered another form of at least partial establishment control.

The wound that opened in August 50 years ago continues to fester.

Dean Blobaum, who cre-

ated a comprehensive website documenting that 1968 week in Chicago, likes to compare the Democratic National Convention of 1968 to the Battle of Gettysburg. Not because the events themselves were similar but because neither can be summed up in a single conclusion. They were both complex events coming together in a stunning and devastating point in time that changed American history but left it permanently scarred.

Like Gettysburg, the divisions that came into such stark focus in 1968 for all the world to see did not start then. In the wake of the Great Depression, President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal became a lightning rod for vehement criticism from opposing sides. Liberals said the program did not do enough for the poor, while conservatives called it socialism in disguise. Race issues had been festering for years and continue to erupt to this day.

"It didn't start in '68," Blobaum said. "I understand the impulse to put it in '68, because it was so stark. But I think it's of a piece with some of American history."

The parties that came together in such combustion in Chicago in 1968 arrived from opposite ends of the spectrum and left the way they came — just more battered.

Whether the rift that was exposed was new or had deepened is still under contention 50 years later. But the wounding events of that August political convention were broadcast live for the world to see. Today, they remain an indelible and memorable mark not just on American politics but on a society that has never again been able to define itself so completely.

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FEBRUARY 2018

Returning to Vietnam

PHOTOS BY COREY DICKSTEIN/Stars and Stripes

Marine Corps veteran Bill Hutton, who fought in Vietnam in 1966 and 1967, points up toward Hill 400 from a valley at the base of The Rock Pile in Quang Tri province March 5. Hutton, who was wounded on Hill 400, earned a Silver Star and three Purple Hearts during his time in Vietnam.

50 years after fighting in the war, veterans go back and gain new perspective

Editor's note: This is the final story in an eight-day series.

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

I QUANG TRI PROVINCE, Vietnam didn't change one thing, Bill Hutton said, reflecting on his journey to the battlefields where he spilled blood as a teenage Marine fighting in some of the United States' first, brutal engagements with the North Vietnamese Army.

"Quite honestly, it changes everything," the 71-year-old Californian said. "My perspective has done a complete 180 (degrees) compared to how I felt a month, two months, six months, six years ago."

Hutton had not expected feelings of relief. In truth, he said, he did not want to return to Vietnam.

"Why bother? I never felt like I would find anything I lost there," he said, noting the reservations he had about the trip even as he sat on the Airbus A380 jumbo jet in February, ferrying him on the first leg of the trip across the Pacific Ocean from Los Angeles to Seoul, South Korea.

He thought he'd left for good 52 years ago.

"I figured that going back there would bring back all these



Phan My, 15, speaks with Hutton outside her home in Cam Lo, Vietnam, on March 5. The young girl, who speaks fluent English, invited a group of Vietnam War veterans to her home after meeting him while they were touring her country, where they once fought.

memories that I've had for all these years — something that would probably just enlarge the problem and leave it ever more significant in my life."

His was wrong.

The trip — a 10-day journey through what is today central Vietnam with 13 other Marine veterans and a Navy corpsman who fought in the area during the 1960s — was healing. This was the country where his youth and

innocence were stripped from him, where he watched close friends fall in combat, where he would be medically evacuated from during a bloody tour in 1966. This was where he earned three Purple Heart medals and a Silver Star.

"I tell everybody now that I know that are Vietnam veterans that ask me about it, that I have no other recommendation but for them to go back and visit this area

because it will give you a sense of relief, of release," he said.

He later realized he found that in an unexpected place — not on the battlefields where he remembered his fallen Marine brothers, but with the Vietnamese people, especially the country's youth, whom he encountered in large cities and small villages. Those children — not much younger than he was when he was fighting in their country — flocked to

"When you see these kids smiling like this and accepting us like this. ... The only thing I can think is that they really accepted that we were there and that we tried to do the best that we could for them."

Bill Hutton
Vietnam veteran

the group of Americans almost everywhere they visited. They listened and shared conversations — often in near-perfect English — as they welcomed the foreigners to their towns and, on one occasion, to their homes.

"That's where I got the closure of everything, thinking 'Hey, we did the right thing,'" Hutton said.

SEE RETURNING ON PAGE 31



COREY DICKSTEIN/Stars and Stripes

Richard Prince is comforted by his fellow Vietnam War Marine veterans as he grows emotional March 2 while revisiting the location where he fought and was wounded at the Citadel in Hue during the Tet Offensive in February 1968.

Read the rest of the series

Fifteen men gathered at an airport in Los Angeles earlier this year, shook hands, chatted and then boarded a plane bound for the one place each had once desperately desired to escape from forever — Vietnam. Follow their journey at

stripes.com/vietnam68

FROM PAGE 30

“When you see these kids smiling like this and accepting us like this. ... The only thing I can think is that they really accepted that we were there and that we tried to do the best that we could for them.”

Hutton's was a familiar refrain among the veterans shuttled around central Vietnam on an all-expenses-paid tour of their battlefields provided by non-profit The Greatest Generations Foundation.

Jorge Azpetitia, who served in Danang during two tours in Vietnam between 1968 and 1970, said his most important takeaway from the trip back to the city where he fought was the friendliness of the people.

“I tell people that the Vietnamese people have suffered incredible losses, incredible personal sacrifices because of that war, and you would think that after what they went through that they would hate us,” said Azpetitia, who retired from the Marine Corps reserve in 1998 as a master gunnery sergeant. “Instead, I was warmly received and respected in their country. That act of human kindness is deeply rooted within me and has impacted me profoundly.”

Unlike Hutton, Azpetitia had long sought to return to Vietnam. He had personal demons to confront and closure to find. After the trip, he said that he had succeeded; his occasional nightmares have not returned since visiting Vietnam.

“I feel better about myself and sleep better,” he said. “It was an incredible trip that has deeply touched my life.”

Finding their wars

For Azpetitia and many of the veterans on the foundation's most recent Vietnam program, their wars — the locations where they fought or lived — were in coastal cities and villages that proved relatively simple to find.

The locations looked different. No sign remains of the sprawling logistics base tucked along Red Beach where Azpetitia served in Danang. Highways and roads, once entirely dirt and pockmarked by American convoys, have been paved over and are littered by electric scooters, cars and tour buses. In villages outside Danang and Hue, cement and brick homes with electricity have replaced grass hooches. Even the ever-present rice paddies look different.

“The dykes are smaller,” one veteran observed. “I don't know how we would have been able to take cover if they looked like this back then.”

Paved roads led the way to the battlefields near Danang where Azpetitia and Steve Bernston fought NVA and Viet Cong fighters as young men. In Hue city, Steve Haas and Richard Prince walked to locations where they fought to retake the key city in the days after thousands of NVA and Viet Cong fighters stormed and captured it during 1968's Tet Offensive.

Hutton's war was more difficult to locate. It took hours of navigating precarious, muddy, uneven dirt roads through rural farmland and jungle to get to this green valley, deep in central Vietnam just beyond wooden fencing.

“I was taken aback that some of the areas where our Marines actually fought were actually accessible by bus,” Hutton said. “I was thinking, ‘Wow, I was up in the triple canopy jungles of South Vietnam (just south of the Demilitarized Zone) and you could only get in there by helicopter.’ It kind of put into perspective some of the overview of the way we fought the war in Vietnam and who we fought.”

Neither the hip-high barrier blocking the road nor the faded signs warning — in English and

Vietnamese — of the potential for landmines stopped Hutton's quest.

He had found his war.

It was here — the thick jungle in the shadow of the impending, jagged mountain known as The Rockpile — that Hutton fought as a 19-year-old during Operations Hastings and Prairie in 1966. Those were some of the earliest major fights between U.S. Marines and NVA forces, which successfully pushed the North Vietnamese across the DMZ.

Once over the wooden fence, Hutton took off — at times jogging — toward higher ground to acclimate himself with the surroundings he hadn't seen in five decades.

Describing his jaunt as “battle mode,” Hutton explained to the four men attempting to keep up with him where he and other Marines were during the fight and where the enemy attacked from as it aimed to take The Rockpile, a strategic location for U.S. artillery and reconnaissance assets.

“You control The Rockpile, you control most of the southwest valley, along the DMZ,” Hutton said as he eyed nearby Hill 400, where he was wounded for the second and third time during his tour. “When you sit here and look at this, I actually have a better prospective today about what the mission — our mission and the NVA's mission — was than I did back then.”

Within hours, in the nearby village of Cam Lo, Hutton said he found his closure. A schoolhouse of English-speaking, middle-school students flocked to Hutton and fellow Marine veteran Lynn Sternolle, welcoming the veterans to their homes and asking them questions about their experiences in the war.

‘Can't really explain it’

Timothy Davis has shuttled hundreds of American and Australian war veterans back to the battlefields where they served since founding The Greatest Generations Foundation in 2004. The native of Australia, who now lives in Denver, established the nonprofit because he saw the need to provide war veterans a

means to return to areas where they served and ensure that their stories continue to be told.

“That's why we always say, ‘Every day is Memorial Day’ because we need to remember the sacrifices these guys have made every single day,” Davis said.

“Look at these guys — every one is a ... hero. Every one of these boys sacrificed, fought and we should be honoring that.” Funded by individual donations, the foundation provides the veterans with everything needed to return — flights, transportation in country, visas, accommodations, food, drinks and experiences that include a ride in Vietnam War-era Jeeps through the streets of Danang and rickshaw and boat tours in Hue.

Veterans are nominated to attend a program and selected based on criteria including their physical condition. Davis said he wished he could take every veteran who wanted to return to their battlegrounds, but that's not possible.

He hopes to return about 250 veterans per year.

“You never know what's going to happen on the program,” Davis said. “Every one is different. But they are all powerful. When you see this guy's eyes light up because he recognizes something, he remembers something — when you see these veterans consoling each other, because the emotions are so raw. Can't really explain it.”

Final salute

Upon the group's return home, there was one last event — a proper welcome at Los Angeles International Airport, where a dozen law enforcement officers greeted the veterans after they disembarked their plane.

“What an incredible honor,” said Azpetitia, a retired Los Angeles police officer, who said he was anything but welcomed home from Vietnam 50 years earlier. “That's the way to come home. That was really something special.”

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Vietnam vets' Top 5 songs

Submitted by Doug Bradley and Craig Werner, authors of “We Gotta Get Out of This Place: The Soundtrack of the Vietnam War,” who interviewed about 300 veterans while writing the book.

1. “We Gotta Get Out of This Place,” The Animals
2. “Feel-Like-I'm-Fixin'-to-Die Rag,” Country Joe and the Fish
3. “Leaving on a Jet Plane,” Peter, Paul and Mary
4. “Fortunates Son,” Creedence Clearwater Revival
5. “Purple Haze,” The Jimi Hendrix Experience



More on music from the era: Soundtrack of their lives

In their 2015 book “We Gotta Get Out of This Place: The Soundtrack of the Vietnam War,” Doug Bradley, a Vietnam veteran, and Craig Werner, a professor of Afro-American Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, explore the music of the era, how troops used music to cope with life in a war zone and how veterans turned to music as a means of survival and reintegration upon coming home.

The first rock 'n' roll war

In Vietnam, music changed the way troops went to war. It gave them a way to bond in a far-off place they wanted to leave. It helped them process their experiences once they came home. On the homefront, music mobilized the antiwar movement. It was a time of chaos in-country and more chaos on campus. For the first time, TV gave people a front-row seat to war on the nightly news. The news was not good. Khe Sanh. Body counts. Four dead in O-hi-o.

The ballad of Barry Sadler

In 1966, Army Staff Sgt. Barry Sadler, an active-duty Green Beret medic, became a national sensation with his song “The Ballad of the Green Berets.” His fall from that short-lived peak makes the story all the more compelling. Historian and Vietnam veteran Marc Leepson captures it all in “Ballad of the Green Beret: The Life and Wars of Staff Sergeant Barry Sadler from the Vietnam War and Pop Stardom to Murder and an Unsolved, Violent Death.”

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Daily Newspaper of U.S. Armed Forces

in the European Theater of Operations

Vol. 1—No. 241

1 Fr.

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Sunday, March 25, 1945

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Park finds wallet lost nearly 4 years ago

PA HERSHEY — A Pennsylvania man has his wallet back nearly four years after it apparently fell out of his pocket while riding a roller coaster. It was a running family joke to tell the kids to look for dad's wallet every time they visited Hersheypark.

Jon Anson told WHTM-TV he got a call from the park that maintenance crews had found his wallet. Inside were his Hersheypark passes, a \$25 gift card to a book store, a gift card to a golf center and a Starbucks card with a balance of 87 cents.

Man protests town with middle finger sculpture

VT WESTFORD — A man said he built a massive sculpture of a middle finger off a Vermont highway to show the local government how he feels.

Ted Pelkey told WCAX-TV he spent \$4,000 on the sculpture near Route 128 in Westford.

He said he's been in a long-running dispute with town officials over whether he can develop his property and move his truck repair and recycling business there.

Records from last year show officials had concerns over how the development would be used.

Mourners, FedEx workers fight at funeral

NY NEW YORK — Police said a brawl broke out between FedEx workers and a group of mourners at a funeral in New York City.

Authorities said the fight began after a FedEx delivery truck struck a 46-year-old funeral attendee outside a mosque in Brooklyn on Monday afternoon.

Three people were hospitalized with minor injuries, including the pedestrian who was struck and a man who was slashed in the hand with a box cutter.

Others were taken into custody, including two 25-year-old FedEx workers. The FedEx truck's windows were smashed in the melee.

Puppy digs up tooth that's 13K years old

WA LANGLEY — An 8-month-old puppy digging a hole in a backyard in Washington state has made a 13,000-year-old discovery.

Kirk Lacey said he thought it was unusual that his yellow Labrador retriever Scout carried around what appeared to be a piece of wood or rock for a couple of days. So the Whidbey Island man sent photographs of it to experts at the University of Washington's Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture in Seattle.

KOMO reported that paleontologists concluded it was the tooth of a woolly mammoth that roamed thousands of years ago.

The fossilized tooth now sits on the mantle where Scout can no longer get it.

THE CENSUS

\$1.2K

The approximate value of a gold coin deposited by an anonymous donor in a Salvation Army kettle at a store in Crystal Lake, Ill. The Chicago Sun-Times reported someone also dropped a South African Krugerrand coin, also worth about \$1,200, and several gold coins and bars of undetermined value at a store in Geneva on Saturday. Another 1-ounce Gold Eagle coin was donated Saturday at a store in Fox Lake.



ANDY MATSKO, THE (POTTSVILLE, PA.) REPUBLICAN-HERALD/AP

In the holiday spirit

Port Carbon, Pa., street department supervisor Bob Faust places Christmas wreaths on poles in the borough on Monday. Palo Alto, Pa., donated the wreaths, and the Pottsville, Pa., street department loaned its bucket truck for the placing of the wreaths. Port Carbon's Christmas lights were damaged during floods last summer.

Police take disguised stun gun from girl, 11

CT HARTFORD — Police in Connecticut said they confiscated a stun gun modified to look like a phone from an 11-year-old girl at a Hartford elementary school.

Hartford police said the student was suspended and referred to juvenile court on charges she brought the functional device to McDonough Middle School on Thursday.

The Hartford Courant reported the stun gun is designed to look like a smartphone and is activated by a button on the side of the device.

Blue rubber ducks show support for artist

MI ST. JOHNS — Small blue rubber ducks were being used to show support for a mid-Michigan man after a judge ruled he must remove thousands of found objects featured in an outdoor art installation because they violate an anti-junk ordinance.

The Lansing State Journal reported the ducks are popping up on mailboxes, car dashboards and in window sills in support of artist Robert Park.

Clinton County District Court Judge Michael Clarizio ruled Oct. 31 that Park must remove items along a pathway on his Bath Township property except for a blue plastic duck.

Park spent two years creating "The Blue Loop," which displays blue items. The plastic duck was the only object that didn't fit the definition of junk.

While no immediate replacement was announced, the pastor said the focus now will be on creating a new tradition.

The obit notes that lutefish lovers still have other options nearby, with Scandinavian diners in other area towns listed as "survivors."

Church ends tradition of lutefish dinner

MN FOREST LAKE — A Minnesota church has ended its 70-year tradition of serving a dinner of lutefish, a Nordic dish of dried cod soaked in lye, and the pastor has penned a eulogy for the dinner's end.

Faith Lutheran Church in Forest Lake would serve a Scandinavian dinner featuring the pungent, jellylike fish the first Tuesday in December.

The Rev. John Klawiter wrote an obituary for the annual dinner in the community newspaper last month.

Klawiter wanted the obit to read as a tribute to the seven decades the church in east-central Minnesota has served hundreds of pounds of lutefish at the annual dinner, dubbed "Holy Tuesday," the Minneapolis Star Tribune reported.

The obit notes that lutefish lovers still have other options nearby, with Scandinavian diners in other area towns listed as "survivors."

The obit notes that lutefish lovers still have other options nearby, with Scandinavian diners in other area towns listed as "survivors."

Battleship life ring displayed at museum

MA NATICK — A World War II museum in Massachusetts is displaying artifacts commemorating the Pearl Harbor attack ahead of the Dec. 7 anniversary.

The International Museum of World War II said it recently acquired a life ring from the USS Arizona.

The battleship was among those destroyed in the surprise attack by Japan on the U.S. naval

base in Hawaii that prompted the U.S. to enter the war in 1941.

The ship's sunken remains are now a national memorial.

The museum, located in the Boston suburb of Natick, also displays many other artifacts related to the attack.

Man rubbed hot sauce into children's eyes

MT GREAT FALLS — A Montana man was convicted of assaults on minors for beating his girlfriend's sons with a belt and rubbing hot sauce in their eyes.

The children testified against Robert Mathew Holguin Jr., of Great Falls, on Tuesday.

Jurors found him guilty Wednesday.

Defense attorney Victor Bunitsky argued the boys' mother, Mandy Marie McElwain, gave Holguin permission to discipline the children and witnessed it.

Child welfare workers placed the boys — then 5 and 8 — in foster care in 2016.

From wire reports

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Coal use drops to lowest levels since 1979

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER
AND MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Americans are consuming less coal in 2018 than at any time since Jimmy Carter's presidency, a federal report said Tuesday, as cheap natural gas and other rival sources of energy frustrate the Trump administration's pledges to revive the U.S. coal industry.

A report by the U.S. Energy Information Administration projected Tuesday that 2018 would see the lowest U.S. coal consumption since 1979, as well as the second-

greatest number on record of coal-fired power plants shutting down. The country's electrical grid accounts for most of U.S. coal consumption.

U.S. coal demand has been falling since 2007 in the face of competition from increasingly abundant and affordable natural gas and renewable energy, such as solar and wind power. Tougher pollution rules also have compelled some older, dirtier-burning coal plants to close rather than upgrade their equipment to trap more harmful coal emissions.

President Donald Trump has made bringing back the coal industry and abun-

dant coal jobs a tenet of his administration. He and other Republicans frequently attacked former President Barack Obama for waging what they called a "war on coal" through increased regulations that Republicans said killed jobs and harmed the industry.

Trump's enthusiasm for coal has helped to make Appalachian "coal country" one of Trump's most fervent bases of support as Trump racked up big wins in West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky and other states.

"The coal industry is back," Trump declared at one rally in West Virginia last summer.

Federal government figures continue to show otherwise, however, as market forces inexorably turn down coal demand.

The Energy Information Administration says coal consumption by the country's power grid will end the year down 4 percent and fall another 8 percent in 2019.

Coal's continuing slump comes despite Trump policy efforts to prop up the industry. That includes scrapping Obama's signature Clean Power Plan that would have spurred electrical suppliers to turn away from coal-fired power plants in favor of cleaner forms of energy such as natural gas.

Pointy helps small shops find Google customers

By SPENCER SOPER
Bloomberg

Talbot's Toyland used to buy full-page newspaper ads during the holiday shopping season and hope for the best. Now the San Mateo, Calif., store is connecting with Bay Area toy shoppers on Google's search engine and attracting customers it might otherwise have never found.

Google for years has offered tools to help small merchants increase their online visibility, but only if those retailers had digital records of what was on their shelves. Like many small businesses, Talbot's lacked digital records of what was in stock and never got around to building one for its mammoth inventory of 65,000 products, which include a range of products from Lionel Trains collectibles to the latest must-have Legos.

Then last year the store purchased three devices from Pointy, a Dublin startup that helps independent merchants increase their



DAVID PAUL MORRIS/Bloomberg

A Pointy device sits by a register at Talbot's Toyland in San Mateo, Calif., where it has helped increase the store's online visibility.

visibility online and lure consumers who otherwise would shop at eBay or megaretailers like Amazon.com and Walmart, which have entire teams dedicated to being visible online.

The \$500 device plugs into a cash register and, using each item's bar code as employees ring up sales, creates a digital inventory that is posted online and

visible in Google searches along with the retailer's location. While Pointy's hardware has been around for four years, it just got more appealing, thanks to a new partnership with Google that lets merchants buy "local inventory ads" that appear in the search results of nearby shoppers.

Talbot's, which has been in business for more than 60 years,

saw immediate results. Potential shoppers called to confirm that the items they wanted were in stock. Talbot's knew those were new customers, since many asked for directions, and the store surmised that at least some of the newbies were tipped off by the advertising generated by the Google-Pointy partnership.

Sales are up by double digits this year, which Talbot's attributed to this added online visibility as well as the closure of nearby Toys R Us locations.

MARKET WATCH

Dec. 4, 2018

Dow Jones industrials	-799.36
	25,027.07
Nasdaq composite	-283.09
	7,158.43
Standard & Poor's 500	-90.31
	2,700.06
Russell 2000	-58.21
	1,480.75

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Dec. 6)	\$1.1648
Dollar buys (Dec. 6)	69.8585
British pound (Dec. 6)	\$1.31
Japanese yen (Dec. 6)	110.90
South Korean won (Dec. 6)	1,084.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769
British pound	5.7865
Canada (Dollar)	1.3111
China (Yuan)	6.8559
Denmark (Krone)	6.9909
Egypt (Pound)	17.9393
Euro	\$1.1323/0.8832
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8134
Hungary (Forint)	285.84
Israel (Shekel)	3.7290
Japan (Yen)	113.15
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3041
Norway (Krone)	8.5162
Philippines (Peso)	52.87
Poland (Zloty)	3.78
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7532
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3673
South Korea (Won)	1,113.70
Switzerland (Franc)	1.0000
Thailand (Baht)	32.75
Turkey (Lira)	5.3397

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.25
Discount rate	3.00
Federal funds market rate	2.20
3-month bill	2.37
30-year bond	3.16

WEATHER OUTLOOK

THURSDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



THURSDAY IN EUROPE



FRIDAY IN THE PACIFIC

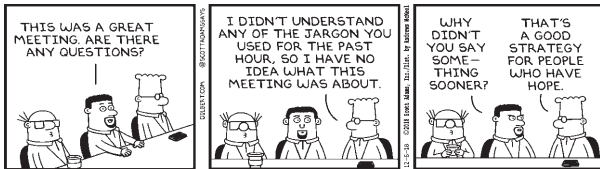


The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

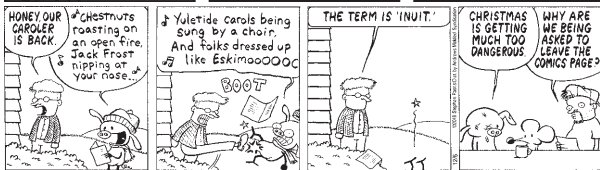
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



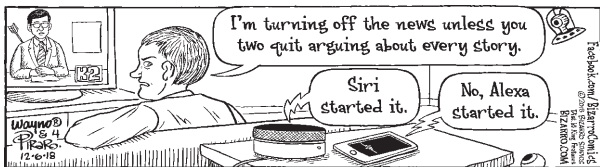
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18					19			20	21			
		22				23					24	25
26	27	28				29				30		
31					32				33			
34				35					36			
37			38				39					
		40					41			42	43	44
45	46				47	48			49			
50					51				52			
53					54				55			

ACROSS

- 1 Retained
- 5 More, to Manuel
- 8 Garbage barge
- 12 Declare
- 13 Mandela's org.
- 14 Arm bone
- 15 Actress Sorvino
- 16 Hide-hair insert
- 17 Disorder
- 18 Grads
- 20 Miles away
- 22 Wallet thief
- 26 Cads
- 29 "Fresh Air" aier
- 30 Wedding words
- 31 Vogue rival
- 32 Coquettish
- 33 "Young Frankenstein" role

- 34 Soul, to Sartre
- 35 Spill catcher
- 36 Egged on
- 37 Small
- 40 Ellington's "Take — Train"
- 41 NHL team
- 45 Brazilian rubber
- 47 Part of DJIA
- 49 Now, in a memo
- 50 Out of control
- 51 Historic period
- 52 Peacekeeping org.

- 53 Hindu royal
- 54 Actor Cariou
- 55 Pair's air

DOWN

- 1 — Sutra particle
- 2 Wicked
- 3 Lima's land
- 4 Crush under-foot
- 5 Frenzied
- 6 Year in Acapulco
- 7 Full of spunk
- 8 Poison —
- 9 Working for a judge
- 10 Clip — (some ties)
- 11 Existed
- 19 Serbian city
- 21 In favor of
- 23 Door handles matter
- 24 Rim
- 25 Frog's kin
- 26 Pile
- 27 Ticklish Muppet
- 28 Charged
- 32 Fortress
- 33 The Emerald Isle
- 35 Spell-off
- 36 Sub-machine gun
- 38 Uniform color
- 39 Hawkeye
- 42 Jacob's twin
- 43 Assess
- 44 Leopard's feature
- 45 Standard
- 46 "I — Rock"
- 48 Mined-over matter

Answer to Previous Puzzle

L	P	S		S	S	E
M	I	R	O	S	T	A
S	A	M	O	A	C	A
B	R	O	W	N	B	A
A	C	S		D	I	T
U	S	E	S		E	A
A	S	F	O	R		F
C	L	E	O		P	O
T	L	C		R	E	A
S	I	T		D	O	N
N	O	E	I	T		L
R	E	I	N	S		O
P	E	G			N	H

12-6

CRYPTOQUIP

PGN KBWV AGLA DBJLIRG'V

VBJ RIN, DBLJ LJK GBPO VB

BCAWJ? LFFLIWJAON GW'V

AGW FIHJRW BC PLHOV.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SOMEBODY TOTALLY SCRAPED OFF THE NAPPED LEATHER FROM THIS SURFACE. HAS IT BEEN DIS-SUED?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals M



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SCOREBOARD

Sports on AIRTEL

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules.
myafn.net

Deals

Tuesday's transactions

BASEBALL
AMERICAN LEAGUE
DETROIT TIGERS — Agreed to terms with LHP Matt Moore on a one-year contract.
TAMPA BAY RAYS — Promoted Paul Hoover to field coordinator. Named Jonathan Erlichman process and analytics coach and Justin Sosa mental skills coach.
TEXAS RANGERS — Named Oscar Marin bullpen coach. Called Crabbe assistant hitting coach and Regan Wong physical therapist. Promoted Jason Neuburn to assistant trainer.

BASKETBALL
NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION
NBA — Fined L.A. Clippers G Patrick Beverley \$25,000 for throwing the game ball at a spectator and Utah G Rudy Gobur for public criticism of officials.
COLLEGE BULLS — Announced the resignation of assistant coach Randy Brown. Promoted director of player development Shawn Rensert to assistant coach. Named Dean Cooper assistant coach.

MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES — Signed F Joakim Noah for the remainder of the season.
FOOTBALL
NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
NFL — Announced the San Francisco 49ers L.J. Nelson has been suspended 10 games for violating the league's policy on performance-enhancing substances.

ARIZONA CARDINALS — Placed OT Mike Iupati, WR Christian Kirk and DT Olsen Pierre on injured reserve. Signed RB Darius Leonard to a one-year contract.
ATLANTA BRUINS — Released WRs Kelvin Benjamin and Andre Holmes. Placed C Russell Bodine on injured reserve. Signed DE Mike Love and center Taylor Bredeson to the practice squad.

ATLANTA BRONCOS — Signed CB Lamar Taylor. Waived T Cyrus Kouandjio.
ATLANTA PACKERS — Signed LB James Campbell on injured reserve. Signed LB Kendall Donnerson from the practice squad and S Troy Matthews and Jason Thompson to the practice squad. Added offensive line coach/head coach/linebackers Winston Moss and interim head coach Philbin have left team.

MIAMI DOLPHINS — Placed TE A.J. Derby on injured reserve. Claimed TE De Delaney off waivers.
OAKLAND RAIDERS — Waived DE Fadol Brown. Signed DE Michael Wilford.
PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Placed RB Justin Hurst on injured reserve.

HOCKEY
NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE
NHL — Approved the addition of a franchise in Seattle to begin play in 2021.
DETROIT RED WINGS — Recalled C Wade Mearns from Grand Rapids (AHL). Recalled D Jody Sadowsky from Grand Rapids to Toledo (ECHL).

LOS ANGELES KINGS — Assigned F Shaleen Rempel to Ontario (AHL).
NEW YORK ISLANDERS — Returned F Steven Gontier to Hartford (AHL). Recalled G Christopher Gibson from Bridgeport.
NEW YORK RANGERS — Assigned F Ryan Groppe from Hartford (AHL) to Maine (ECHL).

OLYMPIC SPORTS — Named Adam Woulford director of communications.
SOCCER
Major League Soccer
NEW YORK CITY FC — Named Brad Sims CEO.

NEW YORK RED BULLS — Exercised options on Gs Evan Louro and Ryan Mearns; signed Gs Andre Amador and Alex Amr Mulliro; signed Vincent Beccolour, Cedric Etienne Jr., Alex Mucy and Florian Grillot; signed Gs Andre Amador and Brian White. Declined options of F Carlos Rivas, F Daniel Arellano, F Daniel Klug and Kevin Politz. Declined end-of-loan option on F Fidi Escobar and M Marco Ratzkowski.

National Women's Soccer League
Portland Thorns FC — Re-signed F Stefanie Banham.
ARKANSAS — Announced Bob Cole Kelleher as head coach.

LOUISVILLE — Named Scott Satterfield football coach.
LOUISVILLE — Named Mike Locksley football coach.

Tuesday's schedule
EAST
Harvard 2, Bentley 1

College football

Schedule
Saturday, Dec. 8
EAST
Army (9-2) vs. Navy (3-9) at Philadelphia

Bowl schedule
Saturday, Dec. 15
Celebration Bowl
At Atlanta
NC A&T (9-2) vs. Alcorn State (9-3)

Cure Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
Tulane (6-6) vs. Louisiana-Lafayette (7-7)
New Mexico Bowl
Albuquerque
North Texas (9-3) vs. Utah State (10-2)

Las Vegas Bowl
Fresno State (11-2) vs. Arizona State (7-5)
Camelia Bowl
Montgomery, Ala.
Georgia Southern (9-3) vs. Eastern Michigan (7-5)

New Orleans Bowl
Middle Tennessee (8-5) vs. Appalachian State (10-2)
Tuesday, Dec. 18
Boca Raton (Fla.) Bowl
UAB (10-3) vs. North Illinois (8-5), 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 19
Frisco (Texas) Bowl
San Diego State (7-5) vs. Ohio (8-4)
Thursday, Dec. 20
Gasparilla Bowl
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
Marshall (6-6) vs. South Florida (7-5)

Friday, Dec. 21
Bahamas Bowl
Fansucc
Toledo (7-5) vs. FIU (8-4)
Western Michigan (9-3) vs. BYU (6-6)
Saturday, Dec. 22
Birmingham (Ala.) Bowl
Memphis (9-3) vs. Wake Forest (6-6)

Armed Forces Bowl
Houston (8-4) vs. Army (9-2)
Dollar General Bowl
Mobile, Ala.
Louisiana (10-3) vs. Troy (9-3)

Honolulu
Buffalo State (7-5) vs. Hawaii (6-5)
Wednesday, Dec. 26
SERVPRO First Responder Bowl
Dallas
Boston College (7-5) vs. Boise State (10-2)

Quick Lane Bowl
Detroit
Minnesota (6-6) vs. Georgia Tech (7-5)
Chick-fil-A Bowl
Phoenix
California (7-5) vs. TCU (6-6)

Independence Bowl
Shreveport, La.
Temple (8-4) vs. Duke (7-5)
Briggs Bowl
Bronx, N.Y.
Miami (7-5) vs. Wisconsin (7-5)

Texaco Bowl
Houston
Baylor (6-6) vs. Vanderbilt (6-6)
Friday, Dec. 28
Little City Bowl
Nashville, Tenn.
Purdue (6-6) vs. Auburn (7-5)

Camping World Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
West Virginia (8-3) vs. Syracuse (9-3)
Alamo Bowl
San Antonio
Iowa State (8-4) vs. Washington State (10-2)

Peach Bowl
Florida
Florida (9-3) vs. Michigan (10-2)
Bell Bowl
Charlotte, N.C.
South Carolina (7-5) vs. Virginia (7-5)

Arizona Bowl
Tucson, Ariz.
Arkansas State (8-4) vs. Nevada (7-5)
Cotton Bowl Classic
Arlington, Texas
CFP Semifinal, Notre Dame (12-0) vs. Clemson (13-0)

AP sportlight
Dec. 6
2018 — Syracuse running back Ernie Davis becomes the first black player to win the Heisman Trophy.

Dec. 14 — Martina Navratilova loses to Helena Sukova in the longest winning streak in history of women's singles tennis, 74 consecutive matches, from 1984.

Dec. 15 — Miami's Vinny Testaverde wins the Heisman Trophy in a runaway, 71-point quarterback, who led the nation in passing efficiency, won by 1,241 points over Temple running back Paul Palmer, the nation's top runner.

Dec. 16 — The Tampa Bay Lightning and Ottawa Senators receive approval to join the NHL in 1992-93.

Dec. 17 — Jerry Rice becomes the NFL's career leader in touchdowns, receiving with his 101st score during the third quarter of the San Francisco 49ers' 27-3 victory over Miami. Rice surpassed Earl Edwards' 100.

Dec. 18 — Jim Courier rebounds from a 2-1 start to lead the U.S. to a 3-1 victory in the Davis Cup, as the United States captures the Davis Cup.

Dec. 19 — Denver wins its 55-31 comeback win over Kansas City Bears, the third 100-0 win in NFL history. The Broncos join the 1934 Chicago Bears and 1972 Miami Dolphins.

Orange Bowl
Miami Gardens, Fla.
CFP Semifinal, Oklahoma (12-1) vs. Alabama (13-0)

Monday, Dec. 31
Military Bowl
Annapolis, Md.
Cincinnati (10-2) vs. Virginia Tech (6-6)

Sun Bowl
El Paso, Texas
Stanford (8-4) vs. Pittsburgh (7-6)
Redbox Bowl
Santa Clara, Calif.
Michigan State (7-5) vs. Oregon (8-4)

Liberty Bowl
Memphis, Tenn.
Missouri (10-2) vs. Oklahoma State (6-6)
Holiday Bowl
Las Vegas
Northwestern (8-5) vs. Utah (9-4)

Gator Bowl
Jacksonville, Fla.
NC State (9-3) vs. Texas A&M (8-4)
Tuesday, Jan. 1
Outback Bowl
Tampa, Fla.
Mississippi State (8-4) vs. Iowa (8-4)

Citrus Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
Kentucky (9-3) vs. Penn State (9-3)
Wednesday, Jan. 2
Glendale, Ariz.
LSU (9-3) vs. UCF (12-1)

Rose Bowl
Pasadena, Calif.
Washington (10-2) vs. Ohio State (12-1)
Thursday, Jan. 3
Sugar Bowl
New Orleans
Texas (9-4) vs. Georgia (11-2)

College Football Championship
Santa Clara, Calif.
Cotton Bowl winner vs. Orange Bowl winner
Saturday, Jan. 19
East-West Shrine Classic
Staten Island, N.Y.
East vs. West

NFLPA Collegiate Bowl
Pasadena, Calif.
American vs. National
Saturday, Jan. 26
Senior Bowl
Mobile, Ala.
North vs. South

FCs playoffs
Quarterfinals
Friday, Dec. 7
Maine (9-3) vs. Wake Forest (10-2)
Saturday, Dec. 8
Colgate (10-1) at North Dakota

College World Series
South Dakota State (9-2) at Kansas State (12-0)
U.S. Open
U.S. Davis (10-2) at Eastern Washington (10-2)

NCAA Division II playoffs
Semifinals
Saturday, Dec. 8
Notre Dame (OHIO) (13-0) at Valdosta State (12-0)

Championship
Saturday, Dec. 15
At McKinney, Texas
Semifinal winners

NCAA Division III playoffs
Semifinals
Saturday, Dec. 8
Johns Hopkins (12-1) vs. Mount Union (13-0)

Championship
Saturday, Dec. 12
At Shenandoah, Texas
Semifinal winners

NAIA playoffs
Championship
Wednesday, Dec. 13
At Municipal Stadium
Daytona Beach, Fla.
Morningside (14-0) vs. Benedictine (Kan.) (13-1)

2000 — Golden State's Antawn Jamison and the Lakers' Kobe Bryant each scored 51 points, including trading six straight scores in the last two minutes of overtime. It's Jamison's second 51-point game.

2001 — In his fourth year, Bryant's career high, but Jamison earns extra satisfaction as the fourth overall pick over Los Angeles. It's the first time in 38 years two players score 50 in the same game.

2003 — Army becomes the first team to finish 0-13 in major college history after a 34-6 loss to Navy.

2004 — California's Ben Carson also have won 11 or more games in seven straight seasons — another record.

2005 — Switzerland's Carlo Cuccini wins the giant slalom to become the first man in more than 40 years to win consecutive World Cup victories. Janka won the super slalom, and Cuccini was the downhill winner.

2009 — Drew Brees, 25, for 419 yards with two touchdowns and one interception as New Orleans stays undefeated with a 33-0 overtime win at Washington. New Orleans and Indianapolis both improve to 12-0, marking the first time in NFL history that two teams are unbeaten this late in the season.

Pro football

NFL
AMERICAN CONFERENCE
East
New England 9 3 0 750 331 259
Miami 6 6 0 500 244 300
Buffalo 4 0 0 333 178 283
N.Y. Jets 3 9 0 250 243 307

West
Houston 9 3 0 750 302 235
Indianapolis 6 6 0 500 221 245
Jacksonville 4 8 0 333 203 243
Pittsburgh 7 4 1 625 346 282
Cincinnati 5 7 0 333 214

North
Cleveland 5 7 0 417 286 371
Cleveland 2 10 0 757 266 312
South
Kansas City 10 2 0 833 444 327
Minnesota 3 9 0 750 340 249
Denver 6 6 0 500 276 262
Oakland 2 10 0 167 220 367

NATIONAL CONFERENCE
East
Dallas 7 5 0 583 247 226
Philadelphia 6 6 0 500 223 263
Washington 6 6 0 500 233 257
N.Y. Giants 4 8 0 333 267 315

North
New Orleans 10 2 0 833 419 269
Carolina 6 6 0 500 304 306
Tampa Bay 4 8 0 417 318 325
Atlanta 4 8 0 333 296 333

South
Chicago 8 4 0 667 344 241
Green Bay 4 7 1 333 281 287
Detroit 4 8 0 333 254 316
L.A. Rams 11 1 0 917 419 298
St. Louis 3 9 0 250 215 310
Arizona 3 9 0 250 175 310
San Francisco 2 10 0 167 257 336

Sunday's games
Division I
Jacksonville vs. Atlanta
Tampa Bay 24, Carolina 17
Baltimore 26, Detroit 19
Arizona 20, Green Bay 17
Miami 21, Buffalo 17
Denver 24, Cincinnati 10
San Francisco 20, Detroit 16
N.Y. Giants 30, Chicago 27
OT Tennessee 28, N.Y. Jets 27

Division II
Cincinnati 78, New York Jets 68
E. Illinois 90, Pontianac 37
Portland 52, Washington 53
Hope 89, Grace Bible 106
San Diego 20, Detroit 16
Marquette 76, UTEP 69
Mary 81, Mayville 17
Michigan 82, Northwestern 60
Missouri 65, Texas-Arlington 66
San Diego 52, San Francisco 50
Spring Arbor 89, Marian 106
Wisc. Platteville 95, Cardinal Stritch 60
Wis.-Stout 96, Silver Lake 94

Division III
Thursday, Dec. 6
Jacksonville at Tennessee
Sunday, Dec. 9
New Orleans at Tampa Bay
N.Y. Giants at Washington
Dallas at Green Bay
Indianapolis at Houston
N.Y. Jets at Buffalo
Carolina at Chicago
New England at Miami
Atlanta at Kansas City
Cincinnati at L.A. Chargers
Denver at San Francisco
Pittsburgh at Oakland
L.A. Rams at Chicago
Minnesota at Seattle

WFL calendar
Dec. 12 — NFL owners meeting, Irving, Texas.

Pro soccer

MLS playoffs
Knockout Round
Wednesday, Oct. 31
New York City FC 3, Philadelphia 1
Portland 2, Arizona 2
Thursday, Nov. 1
Columbus 2, D.C. United 2, Columbus advances on penalty kicks 3-2
Real Salt Lake 3, Los Angeles FC 3

Home-and-home
Eastern Conference
Columbus 1, New York
Atlanta 1, New York City FC 0
Western Conference
Portland 2, Arizona 2
Sporting Kansas City 1, Real Salt Lake 1

Eastern Conference
Atlanta 1, New York City 1, Atlanta advances on 4-1 aggregate
Portland 2, Arizona 2, Portland advances on 3-1 aggregate
Western Conference
Seattle 3, Portland 2, 4-4 aggregate; Portland advances on 5-3 aggregate
Sporting Kansas City 4, Real Salt Lake 2, Sporting KC advances on 5-3 aggregate

Conference Championships
First leg
Eastern Conference
Atlanta 3, New York 0
Portland 2, Arizona 2
New York 1, Atlanta 0, Atlanta advances on 4-1 aggregate
Western Conference
Seattle 3, Portland 2, 4-4 aggregate; Portland advances on 5-3 aggregate
Sporting Kansas City 4, Real Salt Lake 2, Sporting KC advances on 5-3 aggregate

Second leg
Eastern Conference
Portland 2, Arizona 2
Atlanta 3, New York 0
Portland advances on 3-2 aggregate
Saturday, Dec. 8
Portland at Atlanta

College basketball

AP Men's Top 25 schedule

Thursday's games
No. 18 Iowa vs. Iowa State
No. 23 Maryland at Purdue
Friday's game
No. 6 Nevada vs. No. 20 Arizona State at the Staples Center, Las Vegas

Tuesday's men's scores

American U. 91, St. Francis (Pa.) 82
Baruch 82, CUNY 58
Boston 65, St. Joseph's 66
Bucknell 92, La Salle 79
Louisiana Tech 82, Prairie View A&M 74
Dominican (N.Y.) 79, Post (Conn.) 68
Hobart 79, Brockport 75
Holy Cross 68, UMass Lowell 68
Indiana 64, Penn St. 62
Iowa 69, Iowa State 68, 2OT
NJIT 77, Army 72
SE Missouri 77, WVU 57
Providence 100, Boston College 95, OT
Seton Hall 77, New Hampshire 57
Syracuse 72, Northwestern 69
Williamington (Del.) 69, Jefferson 62
Yeshiva 92, St. Joseph's (LI) 68

SOUTH
Appalachian 90, Howard 85
Auburn 67, UNC Asheville 41
Belmont 76, Lipscomb 74
Boston College 68, Seton Hall 69
Davidson 59, Winthrop 81
Florida 68, Georgia 68
Furman 98, Elon 77
Georgia St. 83, Furman 80
Indiana 65, St. Benedictary (NO) 57
Jacksonville 94, Presbyterian 88
Kennesaw 68, Middle Tennessee 68
Lincoln Wilson 110, Boyce 49
Louisiana Tech 82, Prairie View A&M 74
Memphis 85, Dakota St. 80
Mississippi St. 90, McNeese St. 77
SE Missouri 77, WVU 57
UAB 73, North Alabama 67

WEST
Case Western 63, Adrian 50
Central Michigan 90, Youngstown State 94, 3OT
Cincinnati 78, N. Kentucky 65
Dayton 68, Detroit 59
E. Illinois 90, Fontbonne 37
Florida 68, Georgia 68
Hope 89, Grace Bible 106
San Diego 20, Detroit 16
Marquette 76, UTEP 69
Mary 81, Mayville 17
Michigan 82, Northwestern 60
Missouri 65, Texas-Arlington 66
San Diego 52, San Francisco 50
Spring Arbor 89, Marian 106
Wisc. Platteville 95, Cardinal Stritch 60
Wis.-Stout 96, Silver Lake 94

AP Men's Top 25 schedule
Thursday's games
No. 6 Mississippi State vs. No. 18 Marquette
No. 19 Kentucky vs. Rhode Island
No. 23 Missouri vs. UMKC
Friday's game
No. 17 Arizona State vs. Southern University

Tuesday's women's scores
CCNY 68, Canisius 66
Buffalo 85, Baruch 63
Boston 65, St. Joseph's (LI) 68
Bucknell 92, La Salle 79
Louisiana Tech 82, Prairie View A&M 74
Dominican (N.Y.) 79, Post (Conn.) 68
Hobart 79, Brockport 75
Holy Cross 68, UMass Lowell 68
Indiana 64, Penn St. 62
Iowa 69, Iowa State 68, 2OT
NJIT 77, Army 72
SE Missouri 77, WVU 57
Providence 100, Boston College 95, OT
Seton Hall 77, New Hampshire 57
Syracuse 72, Northwestern 69
Williamington (Del.) 69, Jefferson 62
Yeshiva 92, St. Joseph's (LI) 68

SOUTH
Appalachian 90, Howard 85
Auburn 67, UNC Asheville 41
Belmont 76, Lipscomb 74
Boston College 68, Seton Hall 69
Davidson 59, Winthrop 81
Florida 68, Georgia 68
Furman 98, Elon 77
Georgia St. 83, Furman 80
Indiana 65, St. Benedictary (NO) 57
Jacksonville 94, Presbyterian 88
Kennesaw 68, Middle Tennessee 68
Lincoln Wilson 110, Boyce 49
Louisiana Tech 82, Prairie View A&M 74
Memphis 85, Dakota St. 80
Mississippi St. 90, McNeese St. 77
SE Missouri 77, WVU 57
UAB 73, North Alabama 67

WEST
Case Western 63, Adrian 50
Central Michigan 90, Youngstown State 94, 3OT
Cincinnati 78, N. Kentucky 65
Dayton 68, Detroit 59
E. Illinois 90, Fontbonne 37
Florida 68, Georgia 68
Hope 89, Grace Bible 106
San Diego 20, Detroit 16
Marquette 76, UTEP 69
Mary 81, Mayville 17
Michigan 82, Northwestern 60
Missouri 65, Texas-Arlington 66
San Diego 52, San Francisco 50
Spring Arbor 89, Marian 106
Wisc. Platteville 95, Cardinal Stritch 60
Wis.-Stout 96, Silver Lake 94

AP Women's Top 25 schedule
Thursday's games
No. 6 Mississippi State vs. No. 18 Marquette
No. 19 Kentucky vs. Rhode Island
No. 23 Missouri vs. UMKC
Friday's game
No. 17 Arizona State vs. Southern University

Tuesday's women's scores
CCNY 68, Canisius 66
Buffalo 85, Baruch 63
Boston 65, St. Joseph's (LI) 68
Bucknell 92, La Salle 79
Louisiana Tech 82, Prairie View A&M 74
Dominican (N.Y.) 79, Post (Conn.) 68
Hobart 79, Brockport 75
Holy Cross 68, UMass Lowell 68
Indiana 64, Penn St. 62
Iowa 69, Iowa State 68, 2OT
NJIT 77, Army 72
SE Missouri 77, WVU 57
Providence 100, Boston College 95, OT
Seton Hall 77, New Hampshire 57
Syracuse 72, Northwestern 69
Williamington (Del.) 69, Jefferson 62
Yeshiva 92, St. Joseph's (LI) 68

SOUTH
Appalachian 90, Howard 85
Auburn 67, UNC Asheville 41
Belmont 76, Lipscomb 74
Boston College 68, Seton Hall 69
Davidson 59, Winthrop 81
Florida 68, Georgia 68
Furman 98, Elon 77
Georgia St. 83, Furman 80
Indiana 65, St. Benedictary (NO) 57
Jacksonville 94, Presbyterian 88
Kennesaw 68, Middle Tennessee 68
Lincoln Wilson 110, Boyce 49
Louisiana Tech 82, Prairie View A&M 74
Memphis 85, Dakota St. 80
Mississippi St. 90, McNeese St. 77
SE Missouri 77, WVU 57
UAB 73, North Alabama 67

WEST
Case Western 63, Adrian 50
Central Michigan 90, Youngstown State 94, 3OT
Cincinnati 78, N. Kentucky 65
Dayton 68, Detroit 59
E. Illinois 90, Fontbonne 37
Florida 68, Georgia 68
Hope 89, Grace Bible 106
San Diego 20, Detroit 16
Marquette 76, UTEP 69
Mary 81, Mayville 17
Michigan 82, Northwestern 60
Missouri 65, Texas-Arlington 66
San Diego 52, San Francisco 50
Spring Arbor 89, Marian 106
Wisc. Platteville 95, Cardinal Stritch 60
Wis.-Stout 96, Silver Lake 94

AP Women's Top 25 schedule
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Memphis 85, Dakota St. 80
Mississippi St. 90, McNeese St. 77
SE Missouri 77, WV

NHL

Roundup

Matthews, Leafs top Sabres in OT

Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Auston Matthews scored his second goal with three seconds on the clock in overtime, and the Toronto Maple Leafs matched their best start in 84 years with a 4-3 victory over the Buffalo Sabres on Tuesday night.

The Maple Leafs won their fifth straight game and improved to 20-8. The only other time it took them just 28 games to reach 20 wins was when they opened the 1934-35 season at 20-6-2.

Patrick Marleau scored with 5:13 remaining in regulation to force overtime, and Kasper Kapanev set up the decisive goal. Jake Gardiner also scored and Mitchell Marner had an assist to give him 11 in five games. Frederik Andersen stopped 38 shots to win his fourth straight.

Golden Knights 5, Capitals 3: Nate Schmidt scored twice in the final two minutes to lift host Vegas over Washington in a rematch of the Stanley Cup final last spring.

It was the first time Washington skated at T-Mobile Arena since winning and hoisting the Stanley Cup in June.

Penguins 6, Avalanche 3: Patrick Hornqvist's natural hat trick in the third period powered host Pittsburgh past Colorado.

The Avalanche had erased a three-goal deficit to tie the game going into the third when Hornqvist went to work.

Lightning 6, Red Wings 5 (SO): Nikita Kucherov and defenseman Victor Hedman scored in a shootout to give visiting Tampa Bay a comeback win over Detroit.

The Lightning, who have won seven of eight, erased a 5-3 deficit in the third period and overcame Frans Nielsen's hat trick.

Jets 3, Islanders 1: Jacob Trouba and Adam Lowry scored in the second period, and in the third period to rally visiting Winnipeg past New York.

Nikolaj Ehlers added an empty-net goal with 2:1 seconds left and Connor Hellebuyck stopped 27 shots as Winnipeg won for the fifth time in six games.

Panthers 5, Bruins 0: Roberto Luongo made 33 saves in his 77th career shutout, Mike Hoffman scored twice and host Florida blanked Boston.

Luongo, who returned to the lineup after missing five games with a knee injury, passed Ed Belfour and Tony Esposito for sole possession of ninth place on the NHL's shutout list.

Flames 9, Blue Jackets 6: Johnny Gaudreau had two goals and two assists, and visiting Calgary scored five times in the second period to rally past Columbus.

Cam Atkinson netted a hat trick to extend his point streak to 11 games, but the Blue Jackets lost their second straight.

Canadiens 5, Senators 2: Max Domi had two goals and an assist and Jonathan Drouin added a goal and two assists as host Montreal defeated Ottawa.

Arturi Lehtonen and Brendan Gallagher also scored for the Canadiens, who won for the second time in eight games. Carey Price stopped 28 shots.

Wild 3, Canucks 2: Jason Zucker broke a tie late in the second period and visiting Minnesota scored on all three of its power plays, beating staggering Vancouver to stop a three-game slide.

Ryan Suter and Zach Parise also scored for the Wild. Devan Dubnyk made 29 saves and Mikael Granlund had two assists.

Coyotes 2, Kings 1: Nick Schmaltz had a power-play goal, Adin Hill made 25 saves for his fourth straight win and visiting Arizona beat Los Angeles.

Lawson Crouse scored a short-handed goal for the Coyotes, undefeated since acquiring Schultz in a trade with Chicago on Nov. 25.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division									
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Diff	Streak
Tampa Bay	29	21	7	1	43	90	67	+23	W-1
Toronto	28	20	8	0	40	102	73	+29	W-1
Buffalo	29	17	8	4	38	84	78	+6	W-1
Boston	27	14	9	4	32	71	69	+2	W-1
Montreal	28	13	10	5	31	88	90	-2	L-1
Detroit	28	12	12	4	28	81	90	-9	L-1
Pittsburgh	26	11	10	5	27	87	91	-4	L-1
Ottawa	28	12	13	3	27	100	114	-14	L-1

Metropolitan Division									
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Diff	Streak
Washington	27	18	7	2	38	88	88	0	W-1
Columbus	27	15	10	2	32	96	92	+4	W-1
N.Y. Islanders	28	13	10	5	29	77	79	-2	W-1
N.Y. Rangers	29	13	12	3	29	89	88	+1	W-1
Philadelphia	26	11	12	4	26	61	67	-6	L-1
Pittsburgh	26	11	12	4	26	76	88	-12	L-1
Carolina	25	12	10	2	24	76	88	-12	L-1
New Jersey	26	9	12	5	23	75	91	-16	L-1

Western Conference

Central Division									
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Diff	Streak
Nashville	28	19	8	1	39	90	64	+26	W-1
Colorado	28	16	7	5	37	102	79	+23	W-1
Anaheim	27	17	7	3	38	84	78	+6	W-1
Dallas	28	15	10	3	33	78	72	+6	W-1
Minnesota	27	15	10	2	32	88	78	+10	W-1
Chicago	28	9	14	5	23	77	104	-27	L-1
St. Louis	25	12	12	1	21	74	85	-11	L-1

Pacific Division									
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Diff	Streak
Calgary	28	17	10	1	35	100	82	+18	W-1
Vancouver	29	14	10	5	33	70	83	-13	W-1
San Jose	28	13	10	5	31	85	89	-4	W-1
Edmonton	27	13	11	3	29	89	88	+1	W-1
Arizona	26	13	11	2	28	68	67	+1	W-1
Vegas	25	10	12	4	24	78	89	-11	L-1
Vancouver	30	11	16	3	25	84	105	-21	L-1
Los Angeles	28	10	17	1	21	59	84	-25	L-1

Notes: — For a complete list of conference standings, visit nhl.com.

Over time loss: Top three teams in each division won't play overtime.

Playoff picture: Top three teams in each division qualify for playoffs.

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The Calgary Flames' Sean Monahan celebrates his goal against the Blue Jackets' during the third period Tuesday in Columbus, Ohio.

Jets 3, Islanders 1

Winnipeg 3, Islanders 1: N.Y. Islanders, Lee (Hainsey, Nelson), 1:33; 2. Winnipeg, Trouba (Connor, Wheeler), 3:39 (pp.). 3. Winnipeg, Lowry (Tanev, Tarrasak), 4:41. A-1, Winnipeg, Ehlers, 15:57.

Shots on Goal—Winnipeg 31-15-6-24. N.Y. Islanders 8-12-8-26. **Power-play opportunities—Winnipeg** 1 of 3. N.Y. Islanders 0 of 2. **Goals—Winnipeg**, Hellebuyck 12-71 (28 shots-27 saves). N.Y. Islanders, Greiss 9-51 (23-21). A-9,125 (15,795). T-2,236.

Penguins 6, Avalanche 3

Colorado 0 0 3 0-3 **Pittsburgh 3 3 0-6** **First Period—1.** Pittsburgh, Guentzel 12 (Letang, Dumoulin), 2:46; 2. Pittsburgh, Malkin 10 (Pearson, Hornqvist), 6:52; 3. Pittsburgh, Brassard 3 (Maatta, Aho-Reese), 7:27.

Second Period—4. Colorado, Barrie 4 (Landeskog, Rantanen), 8:16 (pp.); 5. Colorado, Soderberg 9 (Cole, Calvert), 9:32; 6. Colorado, Nieto 3 (Bourque), 13:17 (sh.).

Third Period—7. Pittsburgh, Hornqvist 10 (Letang, Kessel), 6:11 (pp.); 8. Pittsburgh, Hornqvist 11 (Malkin), 7:32; 9. Pittsburgh, Hornqvist 12, 8:58.

Shots on Goal—Colorado 18-12-15-45. Pittsburgh 10-11-11-32. **Power-play opportunities—Colorado** 1 of 3; Pittsburgh 1 of 3. **Goals—Colorado**, Varlamov 10-63 (32 shots-26 saves); Pittsburgh, Deslaurier 7-43 (45-42).

A-18,415 (18,387). T-2,233.

Lightning 6, Red Wings 5 (SO)

Tampa Bay 0 3 2 0-6 **Detroit 1 2 1 0-5** **First Period—1.** Detroit, Nyquist 5 (Larkin), 15:54; 2. Detroit, Nielsen 2 (Athanasiou), 17:15.

Second Period—3. Tampa Bay, Joseph 7 (Callahan), 5:10; 4. Tampa Bay, Joseph (Gourde), 11:37; 5. Detroit, Nielsen 3 (Wilkowski), 13:53; 6. Tampa Bay, Stamkos 10 (Callahan), 14:27; 7. Detroit, Nielsen 4 (Athanasiou), 16:26.

Third Period—6. Detroit, Nyquist 6 (Larkin, Abdelkader), 4:06; 9. Tampa Bay, Mikko 6 (Sergechukov), 10:00; 10. Tampa Bay, Paquette 7 (Joseph), 14:58 (sh.).

Shots on Goal—Tampa Bay 21 (Hedman, G. Pont, Kucherov, G. Detroit 1 (Nielsen, G. Vanek, N.Y. Quigley). **Shots on Goal—Tampa Bay** 5-18-11-35. Detroit 12-7-41-41-24. **Power-play opportunities—Tampa Bay** 0 of 2; Detroit 2 of 2. (24 shots-19 saves). Detroit, Howard 9-40 (45-30). A-18,477 (20,000). T-2,244.

Canadiens 5, Senators 2

Montreal 1 1 3 1-5 **Ottawa 0 1 2 0-3** **First Period—1.** Montreal, Drouin 10 (Perron, LeBlond), 14:30.

Second Period—2. Ottawa, DeMeo 10 (Perron, LeBlond), 8:09; 3. Montreal, Drouin 12 (Orokin), 14:24; 4. Montreal, Drouin 13 (Byron, Routh), 17:29; 5. Montreal, LeBlond 5 (Shaw, Kabanemli), 18:17.

Third Period—6. Montreal, Gallagher 9 (Ratier, 12:21; 7. Ottawa, Stone 13 (Duchene), 12:29.

Shots on Goal—Ottawa 10-13-7-30. Montreal 17-12-12-41.

Power-play opportunities—Ottawa 0 of 3; Montreal 4 of 3.

Goals—Ottawa, Anderson 11-10 (41 shots-36 saves); Montreal, Price 9-34 (30-28).

A-20,705 (21,288). T-2,225.

Maple Leafs 4, Sabres 3 (OT)

Toronto 0 1 2 0-3 **Buffalo 1 2 0-3** **Second Period—1.** Toronto, Matthews 14 (Hainsey), 8:33; 2. Buffalo, Reinhart 8 (Ristolainen, Beaulieu), 14:01; 3. Toronto, Gardiner (Marner, Tavares), 15:50.

Third Period—4. Buffalo, Elie (Ristolainen, Skinner), 2:39; 5. Buffalo, Elie (Reinhart), 12:57; 6. Toronto, Marleau 7 (Matthews, Reilly), 14:47.

Overtime—7. Toronto, Matthews 15 (Kapanen, Gardiner), 4:57.

Shots on Goal—Toronto 7-10-11-2-30. Buffalo 14-12-11-4-41.

Goals—Toronto, Andersen 16-70 (41 shots-38 saves). Buffalo, Ulmark 5-33 (30-26). A-19,070 (19,070). T-1,338.

Wild 3, Canucks 2

Minnesota 1 2 0-3 **Vancouver 1 1 0-4** **First Period—1.** Vancouver, Leivo 5 (Pettersson, Booser), 7:02; 2. Vancouver, Parise 13 (Spurgeon, Dumoulin), 12:17 (pp.).

Second Period—3. Vancouver, Motte 4 (Schultz, Schmidt), 2:33; 5. Vancouver, Suter 4 (M.Granlund, 15:36) (pp.); 5. Minnesota, Zuccarello 9 (M.Granlund, Staal), 16:31 (pp.).

Shots on Goal—Minnesota 7-16-5-28. Vancouver 6-11-14-31.

Power-play opportunities—Minnesota 3 of 3; Vancouver 0 of 3. **Goals—Minnesota**, Dubnyk 10-8-2 (31 shots-29 saves). Vancouver, Nilsson 3-6-0 (28-25).

A-17,122 (18,910). T-2,225.

Golden Knights 5, Capitals 3

Washington 1 1 1-3 **Vegas 1 1 0-4** **First Period—1.** Vegas, Reaves 6 (Lindbergh, Eakin), 2:30 (pp.); 2. Washington, Vranak 7 (Connolly), 15:33.

Second Period—3. Washington, Ovechkin 20 (Connolly, Bowey), 11:42.

Third Period—4. Vegas, Bellemare 4 (McNabb, Schmidt), 2:33; 5. Vegas, Eakin 11 (Engelund, Lindberg), 2:49; 6. Washington, Vrana 8 (Kuznetsov), 11:42.

Shots on Goal—Washington 9-8-26. Vegas 7-10-11-28.

Goals—Washington, Hoolby 10-7-2 (27 shots-23 saves). Vegas, Fleury 15-9-1 (26-23).

A-18,275 (17,367). T-2,236.

Coyotes 2, Kings 1

Arizona 0 1 0-2 **Los Angeles 0 0 1-1** **First Period—1.** Arizona, Crouse 5 (Hultman, Archibald), 18:25 (sh.).

Second Period—2. Arizona, Schmaltz 4 (Kells, Schmalz), 10:30.

Third Period—3. Los Angeles, Martinez 3 (Kopitar, Brown), 14:12.

Shots on Goal—Arizona 7-7-6-20. Los Angeles 8-10-26.

Power-play opportunities—Arizona 1 of 4; Los Angeles 0 of 2.

Goals—Arizona, Smith 4-0-4 (26 shots-25 saves). Los Angeles, Quigley 1-5-1 (20-18).

A-17,203 (18,330). T-2,332.

Scoring leaders

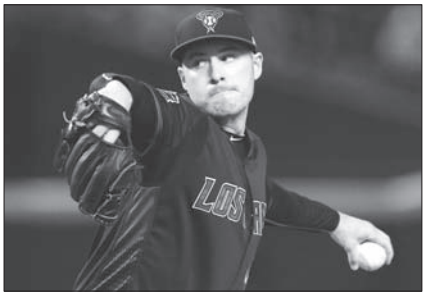
Through Tuesday

Player	GP	G	A	Pts
Nathan MacKinnon, CO	28	11	35	46
Nikita Kucherov, TB	29	12	30	42
Connor McDavid, EDM	26	14	21	35

Sabres goalie Linus Ullmark stops a shot by Toronto Maple Leafs forward Auston Matthews during Tuesday's game in Buffalo, N.Y.



MLB/SPORTS BRIEFS



Rick Scuteri/AP

Pitcher Patrick Corbin, a two-time All-Star with Arizona, has agreed to a six-year contract with the Washington Nationals.

Nats land Corbin for 6 years, \$140M

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Add Patrick Corbin to the All-Star starting staff the Washington Nationals have assembled.

A person familiar with the deal said the left-handed Corbin has agreed to a six-year contract with the Nationals, pending a physical exam. Another person familiar with the terms said the contract is for \$140 million.

The people confirmed the details of the agreement to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity Tuesday because nothing had been announced by the team.

Corbin's contract would include \$10 million in deferred money, one of the people said.

Corbin, who has played his entire major league career for the Arizona Diamondbacks, joins a rotation in Washington that already includes three-time Cy Young Award winner Max Scherzer and Stephen Strasburg. Corbin was an NL All-Star selection in 2013 and this year; Scherzer has been picked for each of the past six Midsummer Classics; Strasburg has made it three times.

The 29-year-old Corbin is coming off his best season in the majors, going 11-7 with a 3.15 ERA while pitching 200 innings for the

second time in his career.

He finished fifth in voting for NL Cy Young honors; Scherzer was second as he came up just shy of a third consecutive prize.

Corbin was considered the top starter available in an elite free-agent class and became the first player among them to sign a big money, multiyear deal this offseason.

Still on the market is right fielder Bryce Harper, the 2012 NL Rookie of the Year and 2015 NL MVP for the Nationals. Washington made a late-season offer to Harper in a bid to keep him, but that was not accepted.

Corbin recently made the rounds of free-agent suitors, including meeting with Nationals owner Mark Lerner and general manager Mike Rizzo.

The signing of Corbin — who had drawn interest from the New York Yankees and Philadelphia Phillies, among other clubs, and was expected to draw offers of at least \$20 million a year — could be a signal that the Nationals are moving on from Harper.

Because Corbin declined a \$179 million qualifying offer by Arizona, Washington would forfeit its first-round pick in next June's amateur draft, No. 17 overall, and Arizona would gain an extra pick after the first round as compensation.

Briefly

Redskins 'discussed' Kaepernick

Gruden: Not signing former 49ers QB a 'strictly football' decision

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The possibility of bringing in Colin Kaepernick for a tryout was "discussed" by the quarterback-needy Washington Redskins, according to coach Jay Gruden, who said Tuesday the team made a "strictly football" decision to look elsewhere.

The team announced Wednesday that they signed Josh Johnson to be their backup quarterback.

"Isn't it obvious what the real reason is?" Kaepernick's lawyer, Mark Geragos, wrote in an email to The Associated Press.

Kaepernick, who led the San Francisco 49ers to a Super Bowl appearance, hasn't played since the 2016 season, when he began kneeling during the national anthem as a way to protest police brutality and social and racial injustice. He filed a grievance against the NFL last year, saying team owners colluded to keep him off rosters.

Gruden told reporters during a conference call that there would have been "a greater possibility" of considering Kaepernick for a roster spot if the Redskins were in need of a QB in Week 1 rather than at this stage of the season.

"Not a lot of time to really get a brand new quarterback and new system installed and taught in a couple of days of practice," Gruden said. "So he's been talked about and discussed, but we'll probably go a different direction."

Washington quarterback Colt McCoy had surgery Tuesday after fracturing his right fibula in a 28-13 loss at the Philadelphia Eagles on Monday night. McCoy had replaced Alex Smith as the starting quarterback after Smith broke his right leg in a game last month and is out for the season.

Gruden said McCoy would not go on injured reserve immediately because there is a slight chance he might be able to return to action by Week 17.

Now the Redskins will turn to Mark Sanchez, who starts at QB Sunday for the Redskins (6-6) against the visiting New York Gi-

ants (4-8).

Against the Eagles, the 32-year-old Sanchez compiled a passer rating of 53.7, going 13-for-21 for only 100 yards with one interception.

In other NFL news:

■ The NFL placed official Roy Ellison on administrative leave while it investigates an accusation that he called Bills defensive end Jerry Hughes a vulgar name during Buffalo's game at Miami on Sunday.

■ The league confirmed Ellison's status and the investigation Tuesday but provided no other details.

■ The Panthers have officially placed three-time Pro Bowl tight end Greg Olsen on injured reserve.

The move was expected after Olsen told reporters on Sunday that he ruptured his right plantar fascia in Carolina's 24-17 loss to the Buccaneers.

■ The Buffalo Bills cut Kelvin Benjamin with four weeks left in the season in an indication of how poorly the receiver underperformed during his 13 months with the team.

Benjamin had just 23 catches on 62 targets for 354 yards and one touchdown, and was knocked for several drops as well as running poor routes this season.

Maryland hires Alabama coordinator Locksley

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Maryland hired Alabama offensive coordinator Mike Locksley as its football coach Tuesday night, bringing home a familiar presence after the most tumultuous year in the program's recent history.

Locksley will take over after a season defined by tragedy and turmoil. Offensive lineman Jordan McNair died in June of heartstroke he suffered during an offseason workout, and in the wake of his death came allegations of bullying and intimidation by coach DJ Durkin and one of his assistants.

Durkin spent more than two months on administrative leave

while independent investigations were conducted into McNair's death and the culture surrounding the team. The governing board for the state university system decided to reinstate Durkin on Oct. 30, a decision that prompted widespread outrage and protests by players. University president Wallace Loh fired Durkin the next day.

Matt Canada served as interim coach this fall and presided over a 5-7 season. He was credited with keeping the team together under difficult circumstances and he interviewed for the permanent job, but Maryland instead went with Locksley, who had two previous stops with the Terrapins.

Locksley, who won the Broyles Award on Tuesday as the nation's top assistant coach, was Maryland's running backs coach from 1997-2002, and later returned as the program's offensive coordinator from 2012-15.

In other college football news: ■ Former Clemson starting quarterback Kelly Bryant says he'll play his final season at Missouri.

Bryant had visited several schools after he announced his transfer from Clemson because he was demoted as starting quarterback behind freshman Trevor Lawrence. Others he met with included Arkansas, Auburn, Mississippi State and North Carolina.

Bryant helped Clemson win an Atlantic Coast Conference title and reach the College Football Playoff in 2017.

76ers' Fultz out with thoracic irritation

PHILADELPHIA — Philadelphia 76ers guard Markelle Fultz is out indefinitely with thoracic outlet syndrome.

Fultz visited with several specialists to figure out what's ailing him. The Sixers said the specialists have identified a compression or irritation in the area between the lower neck and upper chest. Physical therapy was recommended for Fultz before returning to play.

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NBA

Roundup

Doncic leads Mavericks to 8th straight home win

Associated Press

DALLAS—The Dallas Mavericks hadn't won eight in a row at home since the year they won the NBA championship.

On Tuesday night, they matched that mark and continued their upward trajectory in the rugged Western Conference.

Luka Doncic scored 21 points and Wesley Matthews added 17 as the Mavericks won for the ninth time in 11 games, beating the Portland Trail Blazers 111-102.

DeAndre Jordan added 12 points and 17 rebounds for Dallas, which won its eighth in a row at American Airlines Center for the first time since March 2011—three months before they defeated Miami for the franchise's only NBA title.

"To be the team we want to be, we have to win the games at home," Matthews said. "Our attention to defense is what's really doing it for us."

The defense made it difficult for Portland's vaunted backcourt. Damian Lillard had 33 points, but shot 10-of-23 from the field and 2-for-8 on threes. His 11-for-12 shooting from the line helped his total.

C.J. McCollum added 18 points for the Blazers, but made just seven of 19 shots and two of seven threes.

"Our guys did a great job executing the defensive game plan," Dallas coach Rick Carlisle said. "Which was not an easy game plan because we were chasing guys who are great players 30 to 40 feet away from the basket."

Lillard scored 25 of his 33 points in the second half as Portland tried, but failed, to rally from a deficit that was mostly double digits through almost all the first three quarters.

"It's an uphill battle," Lillard said. "I thought we still had a chance. When you create a hole, you got to fight out of it so hard to get there, you put yourself in a position where you got to be perfect down the stretch."

The Mavericks closed out the first quarter with a 17-3 run and had a double-digit lead until Lillard's drive and free throw made it 78-69 late in the third.

Dwight Powell hit consecutive three-pointers and Maxi Kleber followed a Devin Harris miss with a dunk to put Dallas up by 14 after three quarters.

J.J. Barea's driving layup capped a 10-0 run that gave the Mavericks their biggest lead at 92-73. Portland got as close as six points in the game's final minutes, but Doncic hit a fall-away three-pointer with 58.9 seconds to go for a 108-99 lead.

Pacers 96, Bulls 90: Myles Turner capped his season high with 18 points and added 11 re-



RON JENKINS/AP

Mavericks forward Luka Doncic attempts a shot over Trail Blazers center Jusuf Nurkic during the first half on Tuesday in Dallas.

bounds and five blocked shots as host Indiana spoiled the debut of new Chicago coach Jim Boylen.

Darren Collison had 23 points and eight rebounds, Bojan Bogdanovic scored 14 points and Tyreke Evans finished with 10 for Indiana. Domantas Sabonis added nine points and 11 rebounds off the bench for the Pacers.

Lauri Markkanen led the Bulls with 21 points and 10 rebounds.

Justin Holiday, facing off against his brother, Indiana rookie Aaron Holiday, finished with 15 points. Chicago has lost seven straight games.

Boylan was named Bulls coach on Monday, taking over for the fired Fred Hoiberg, who was let go following a 5-19 start this season. Hoiberg had a 115-155 mark with one playoff appearance in three-plus seasons.

Magic 105, Heat 90: Aaron Gordon scored 20 points and grabbed 13 rebounds, Nikola Vucevic finished with 19 points and 10 rebounds and visiting Orlando beat Miami.

Terrence Ross added 19 off the bench for the Magic, who were 14-for-28 from three-point range. Evan Fournier scored 13 and DJ Augustin had 11 for Orlando.

Justise Winslow scored 14 for Miami, which had won two straight—and still hasn't had a three-game winning streak this season. Kelly Olynyk scored 13,

Hassan Whiteside had 12 and Dwyane Wade and James Johnson each added 11 for the Heat.

Whiteside left the Heat bench with 40.5 seconds left and walked to the locker room. He didn't play in the fourth quarter, and has been unhappy when that's occurred in the past.

Jazz 139, Spurs 105: Donovan Mitchell scored 20 points and Rudy Gobert had 18 points and 10 rebounds to lead host Utah.

Kyle Korver scored 15 points in his first home game since he returned to the Jazz, and Derrick Favors added 14 points as Utah won for the first time at home in nearly a month. The Jazz beat Boston 123-115 on Nov. 9, but have been on the road much of the season and haven't found a rhythm at home.

Jakob Poeltl scored a career-high 20 points for the Spurs.

Kings 122, Suns 105: Buddy Hield scored 20 points, De'Aaron Fox had 16 points and seven assists and visiting Sacramento coasted past Phoenix.

Seven Kings scored in double figures, including Bogdan Bogdanovic off the bench with 14 points. Sacramento has won two straight after losing its previous three.

Rookie DeAnthony Melton scored a career-high 21 points to lead the Suns, who fell behind 36-9 after the first quarter and lost their sixth straight.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division			
	W	L	Pct GB
Toronto	20	5	80.0 0
Philadelphia	17	8	68.0 3
Boston	13	12	52.0 7
Brooklyn	8	17	32.0 12
New York	10	15	40.0 10

	W	L	Pct GB
Orlando	12	12	50.0 -
Charlotte	12	9	57.0 1/2
Washington	10	14	41.7 2
Miami	9	14	39.3 2 1/2
Atlanta	19	3	86.9 0

Central Division

	W	L	Pct GB
Milwaukee	15	7	68.2 -
Detroit	13	8	61.9 1 1/2
Indiana	14	10	58.3 3
Cleveland	5	18	21.7 10 1/2
Chicago	5	20	20.0 11 1/2

Western Conference

Southwest Division			
	W	L	Pct GB
Memphis	12	9	57.0 0
Dallas	12	10	54.5 1
New Orleans	12	13	48.0 2 1/2
Cleveland	12	12	50.0 2 1/2
San Antonio	11	13	45.8 3

	W	L	Pct GB
Denver	16	7	69.6 -
Oklahoma City	15	7	68.2 1/2
Portland	13	11	54.0 3 1/2
Minnesota	12	12	50.0 4 1/2
Utah	13	10	56.9 5

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct GB
Denver	16	7	69.6 -
Oklahoma City	15	7	68.2 1/2
Portland	13	11	54.0 3 1/2
Minnesota	12	12	50.0 4 1/2
Utah	13	10	56.9 5

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct GB
LA Clippers	16	7	69.6 -
Golden State	16	9	64.0 1
LA Lakers	14	9	60.9 2
Sacramento	12	12	50.0 4 1/2
Phoenix	4	20	16.7 12 1/2

Monday's games

Oklahoma City 110, Detroit 83	
Cleveland 99, Brooklyn 97	
Denver 106, Toronto 103	
Golden State 128, Atlanta 111	
Washington 110, New York 107	
LA Clippers 129, New Orleans 126	
Minnesota 103, Houston 91	

Tuesday's games

Indiana 96, Chicago 90	
Orlando 105, Miami 98	
Dallas 111, Portland 102	
Sacramento 122, Phoenix 105	
Utah 139, San Antonio 105	

Wednesday's games

Golden State at Cleveland	
Oklahoma City at Brooklyn	
Washington at Atlanta	
Charlotte at Minnesota	
LA at New Orleans	
Detroit at Milwaukee	
LA Clippers at Memphis	
Philadelphia at Toronto	
San Antonio at LA Lakers	

Thursday's games

New York at Boston	
Phoenix at Portland	
Houston at Utah	

Teusday

Pacers 96, Bulls 90	11	2	15
Markkanen 24, Holiday 5-11, 2-2, 15, Nurkic 18, Evans 10-22, 16, Forbess 13-22, Ardicicchio 5-0-0-0, Lavine 6-15-0-13, Porter 1-2, Lillard 10-23, Lillard 10-23, Collins 1-4-0-0, Curry 3-10-0-0, Powell 2-1-2, Harris 2-0-0-0, Totals 97-90			

Indiana	Bogdanovic 5-10-3-4-14, Young 3-8-0-6, Turner 8-17-2-14, 18, Collins 10-22-2-2, Evans 4-4-0-4, McDermott 1-0-0-0, Sabonis 4-1-2-9, Joseph 3-6-2-9, A-Holiday 2-6-0-5, Totals 125-105 <td></td> <td></td>		
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Chicago	139	105	24	23	23-10
Three-point Goals—Chicago 11-31 (Markkanen 5-13, Holiday 3-6, Hutchins 2-5, Evans 1-2, Lillard 1-2, Harris 1-0-1, Parker 0-2, Ardicicchio 0-3), Indiana 1-3, Bogdanovic 4-4, Joseph 1-3, A-Holiday 1-3, Bogdanovic 4-4, Young 0-4, Turner 0-1, Evans 0-3, McDermott 0-3, Fouled Out—Chicago 4-4 (Carter, Jr.), Indiana 4-5 (Turner, Sabonis 1), Assists—Chicago 26 (Lavine 9), Indiana 22 (Carter, Joseph, Collins 4, Ardicicchio 3), Total Fouls—Chicago 23, Indiana 13. A-16-44e (28.00).					

Jazz 139, Spurs 105	11	2	15
SAN ANTONIO—Gay 0-3-0-0, Bertans 3-6-2-9, Manning 10-22-16, Forbess 13-22, 13, DeRozan 7-13-2-16, Penderster 0-1-0-0, Ardicicchio 1-0-0-0, Fox 10-22-16, Poeltl 9-11-22, Mills 3-8-0-0, White 5-11-10-0, Bellinelli 1-2-2-5, Totals 44-90			

Utah	139	105	24	23	23-10
Three-point Goals—San Antonio 7-22 (Bertans 2-4, Mills 2-5, Cunningham 1-3, Bellinelli 1-4, Forbess 1-5, White 0-1), Utah 20-33 (Mitchell 4-6, Korver 3-4, Ingles 3-6, Turner 3-2, Crowder 2-3, O'Neale 2-4, Exum 1-3, Sefolosha 3-4-0-0, Crowder 3-4-0-0, 10-22-16, Ingles 10-22-16, Poeltl 9-11-22, Mills 3-8-0-0, White 5-11-10-0, Bellinelli 1-2-2-5, Totals 44-90					

San Antonio	105	139	24	23	23-10
Three-point Goals—San Antonio 7-22 (Bertans 2-4, Mills 2-5, Cunningham 1-3, Bellinelli 1-4, Forbess 1-5, White 0-1), Utah 20-33 (Mitchell 4-6, Korver 3-4, Ingles 3-6, Turner 3-2, Crowder 2-3, O'Neale 2-4, Exum 1-3, Sefolosha 3-4-0-0, Crowder 3-4-0-0, 10-22-16, Ingles 10-22-16, Poeltl 9-11-22, Mills 3-8-0-0, White 5-11-10-0, Bellinelli 1-2-2-5, Totals 44-90					

Phoenix	105	139	24	23	23-10
Three-point Goals—Phoenix 11-31 (Markkanen 5-13, Holiday 3-6, Hutchins 2-5, Evans 1-2, Lillard 1-2, Harris 1-0-1, Parker 0-2, Ardicicchio 0-3), Indiana 1-3, Bogdanovic 4-4, Joseph 1-3, A-Holiday 1-3, Bogdanovic 4-4, Young 0-4, Turner 0-1, Evans 0-3, McDermott 0-3, Fouled Out—Phoenix 4-4 (Carter, Jr.), Indiana 4-5 (Turner, Sabonis 1), Assists—Phoenix 26 (Lavine 9), Indiana 22 (Carter, Joseph, Collins 4, Ardicicchio 3), Total Fouls—Phoenix 23, Indiana 13. A-16-44e (28.00).					



LYNNE SLADKY/AP

Magic forward Aaron Gordon shoots over Heat forward Rodney McGruder during the first half on Tuesday. Gordon had 20 points in Orlando's win.

Magic 105, Heat 90

ORLANDO—Simmons 1-6-0-3, Gordon 7-16-3-4-20, Vucevic 8-15-1-13, Augustin 3-11-3-3-11, Fournier 5-10-0-13, Isaac 4-5-4-12, Bamba 2-4-0-2, Grant 1-1-2-4, Ross 7-13-3-19, Totals 38-86-15-23-10					
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MIAMI—McGruder 3-8-0-0-7, Johnson 5-8-0-0-11, Whiteside 6-7-2-12, Richardson 2-14-1-16, Ellington 2-7-0-6, Winslow 6-13-10-14, Olynyk 1-11-2-13, Adebayo 3-7-0-6, T-Johnson 2-0-4-2, Wade 5-13-10-13, Totals 38-91-22-5-10					
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Orlando	27	10	29	105
Three-point Goals—Orlando 14-28 (Gordon 3-3, Fournier 3-4, Ross 2-3, Vucevic 2-5, Augustin 2-5, Simmons 1-3, Grant 1-4, Isaac 0-1), Miami 12-25 (Olynyk 4-10, Winslow 2-4, Ellington 2-6, McGruder 1-2, Johnson 1-3, Wade 1-4) (Whiteside 9, Fouled Out—None, Rebounds—Orlando 43 (Gordon 13), Miami 47 (Whiteside 9), Assists—Orlando 22 (Augustin 5, Gordon 5), Miami 19 (Richardson 5), Totals—Orlando 38, Miami 49, Technicals—Orlando coach Steve Clifford, A-16-900 (136.00).				

Mavericks 111, Trail Blazers 102	11	2	15
Portland—Harkless 2-5-0-5, Aminu 5-6-1-12, Nurkic 4-9-1-9, Lillard 10-23-11-23, McCollum 7-19-2-18, Leonard 0-0-1-1, Collins 1-2-0-2, Curry 3-10-0-0, Powell 2-1-2, Harris 2-0-0-0, Totals 97-90			

Dallas	Barnes 4-12-3-5-11, Doncic 6-14-7-21, Jordan 4-8-4-12, Smith Jr. 4-9-5-12, Matthews 6-12-2-3-17, Finney 2-3-2-0-0-5, Kleber 4-7-0-8, Powell 2-1-2-7, Barea 3-11-3-4-9, Harris 3-6-1-9, Totals 98-87-24-38-11 <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>				
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Portland	20	25	29	102
Three-point Goals—Portland 7-24 (McCollum 2-7, Lillard 2-8, Aminu 1-2, Curry 1-2, Harkless 1-2, Stauskas 0-3), Dallas 11-30 (Matthews 3-6, Powell 2-3, Doncic 2-4, Harris 2-5, Finney-Smith 1-1, Smith Jr. 1-4, Kleber 0-2, Barea 0-2, Barnes 0-3), Fouled Out—Portland 2-2 (Gordon 1-1, Smith 4-8) (Amun 13), Dallas 51 (Jordan 17), Assists—Portland 20 (Lillard 8), Dallas 25 (Smith Jr. 3), Total Fouls—Portland 24, Dallas 19, Technicals—Aminu, Harkless, Matthews 1-1-1-1 (25.00).				

Kings 122, Suns 105	11	2	15
SACRAMENTO—Shumpert 2-5-3-4-4, Bielski 1-0-0-2, Cauley-Stein 3-5-0-6, Fox 5-11-5-8-16, Hield 7-13-3-24-0, LuJack 2-0-0-10, Williams 4-5-5-13, Koutous 5-7-12-11, Mason 3-7-2-3, Ferrell 1-0-0-0, 10-22-16, Williams 4-5-5-13, Sefolosha 3-4-0-0, Totals 122-105			

San Antonio	105	139	24	23	23-10
Three-point Goals—San Antonio 7-22 (Bertans 2-4, Mills 2-5, Cunningham 1-3, Bellinelli 1-4, Forbess 1-5, White 0-1), Utah 20-33 (Mitchell 4-6, Korver 3-4, Ingles 3-6, Turner 3-2, Crowder 2-3, O'Neale 2-4, Exum 1-3, Sefolosha 3-4-0-0, Crowder 3-4-0-0, 10-22-16, Ingles 10-22-16, Poeltl 9-11-22, Mills 3-8-0-0, White 5-11-10-0, Bellinelli 1-2-2-5, Totals 44-90					

Phoenix	105	139	24	23	23-10
Three-point Goals—Phoenix 11-31 (Markkanen 5-13, Holiday 3-6, Hutchins 2-5, Evans 1-2, Lillard 1-2, Harris 1-0-1, Parker 0-2, Ardicicchio 0-3), Indiana 1-3, Bogdanovic 4-4, Joseph 1-3, A-Holiday 1-3, Bogdanovic 4-4, Young 0-4, Turner 0-1, Evans 0-3, McDermott 0-3, Fouled Out—Phoenix 4-4 (Carter, Jr.), Indiana 4-5 (Turner, Sabonis 1), Assists—Phoenix 26 (Lavine 9), Indiana 22 (Carter, Joseph, Collins 4, Ardicicchio 3), Total Fouls—Phoenix 23, Indiana 13. A-16-44e (28.00).					

San Antonio	105	139	24	23	23-10
Three-point Goals—San Antonio 7-22 (Bertans 2-4, Mills 2-5, Cunningham 1-3, Bellinelli 1-4, Forbess 1-5, White 0-1), Utah 20-33 (Mitchell 4-6, Korver 3-4, Ingles 3-6, Turner 3-2, Crowder 2-3, O'Neale 2-4, Exum 1-3, Sefolosha 3-4-0-0, Crowder 3-4-0-0, 10-22-16, Ingles 10-22-16, Poeltl 9-11-22, Mills 3-8-0-0, White 5-11-10-0, Bellinelli 1-2-2-5, Totals 44-90					

Phoenix	105	139	24	23	23-10
Three-point Goals—Phoenix 11-31 (Markkanen 5-13, Holiday 3-6, Hutchins 2-5, Evans 1-2, Lillard 1-2, Harris 1-0-1, Parker 0-2, Ardicicchio 0-3), Indiana 1-3, Bogdanovic 4-4, Joseph 1-3, A-Holiday 1-3, Bogdanovic 4-4, Young 0-4, Turner 0-1, Evans 0-3, McDermott 0-3, Fouled Out—Phoenix 4-4 (Carter, Jr.), Indiana 4-5 (Turner, Sabonis 1), Assists—Phoenix 26 (Lavine 9), Indiana 22 (Carter, Joseph, Collins 4, Ardicicchio 3), Total Fouls—Phoenix 23, Indiana 13. A-16-44e (28.00).					

San Antonio	105	139	24	23	23-10
Three-point Goals—San Antonio 7-22 (Bertans 2-4, Mills 2-5, Cunningham 1-3, Bellinelli 1-4, Forbess 1-5, White 0-1), Utah 20-33 (Mitchell 4-6, Korver 3-4, Ingles 3-6, Turner 3-2, Crowder 2-3, O'Neale 2-4, Exum 1-3, Sefolosha 3-4-0-0, Crowder 3-4-0-0, 10-22-16, Ingles 10-22-16, Poeltl 9-11-22, Mills 3-8-0-0, White 5-11-10-0, Bellinelli 1-2-2-5, Totals 44-90					

Phoenix	105	139	24	23	23-10
Three-point Goals—Phoenix 11-31 (Markkanen 5-13, Holiday 3-6, Hutchins 2-5, Evans 1-2, Lillard 1-2, Harris 1-0-1, Parker 0-2, Ardicicchio 0-3), Indiana 1-3, Bogdanovic 4-4, Joseph 1-3, A-Holiday 1-3, Bogdanovic 4-4, Young 0-4, Turner 0-1, Evans 0-3, McDermott 0-3, Fouled Out—Phoenix 4-4 (Carter, Jr.), Indiana 4-5 (Turner, Sabonis 1), Assists—Phoenix 26 (Lavine 9), Indiana 22 (Carter, Joseph, Collins 4, Ardicicchio 3), Total Fouls—Phoenix 23, Indiana 13. A-16-44e (28.00).					

San Antonio	105	139	24	23	23-10
Three-point Goals—San Antonio 7-22 (Bertans 2-4, Mills 2-5, Cunningham 1-3, Bellinelli 1-4, Forbess 1-5, White 0-1), Utah 20-33 (Mitchell 4-6, Korver 3-4, Ingles 3-6, Turner 3-2, Crowder 2-3, O'Neale 2-4, Exum 1-3, Sefolosha 3-4-0-0, Crowder 3-4-0-0, 10-22-16, Ingles 10-22-16, Poeltl 9-11-22, Mills 3-8-0-0, White 5-11-10-0, Bellinelli 1-2-2-5, Totals 44-90					

(Hield 3-5, Ju.Jackson 2-2, Bogdanovic 2-5, Fox 1-1, Mason 1-1, Williams 1-2, McLemore 1-4, Jelica 0-1, Shumpert 0-3), Phoenix 12-43 (Daniels 4-9, Melton 3-4, Ariza 3-8, Jo.Jackson 2-6, Bender 0-1, Oko-

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Top 25 roundup

No. 5 Michigan escapes Northwestern

Associated Press

EVANSTON, Ill. — Jordan Poole and Michigan finally faced some adversity Tuesday night.

Pushed right to the very end, they delivered.

Poole made two big plays in the last 2½ minutes and Ignas Brazdeikis scored 13 of his 23 points in the second half to help the fifth-ranked Wolverines hold off Northwestern for a 62-60 victory.

"I feel like a game like this brings us even more together, more chemistry, more everything," Brazdeikis said. "So this was really important for us."

Michigan opened with eight straight wins by at least 17 points, including blowouts against Villanova, North Carolina and Purdue. Poole and company appeared headed for another runaway before the Wildcats challenged the Wolverines in the second half.

"I knew we were going to have to go through games like this if we were going to be good," coach John Beilein said. "We survived it — I don't know how — but we made just enough good plays down the stretch."

Poole finished with 15 points as Michigan (9-0, 2-0 Big Ten) added to its best start since it opened the 2012-13 season with 16 straight victories. Xavier Simpson scored 10 points, and Jon Teske had eight points and 10 rebounds.

The game was tied at 58 when Poole fed Teske for a dunk with 2:30 left. After Ryan Taylor made a jumper for Northwestern, Poole drove inside for another dunk that made it 62-60 with 1:53 remaining.

"Being able to make shots late, it defini-



Nan Y. Hun/AP

Northwestern guard Ryan Taylor, right, reacts after missing a basket as Michigan guard Jordan Poole celebrates. The fifth-ranked Wolverines beat the Wildcats 62-60.

nately gives us confidence if we're ever in a situation like this again," Poole said.

Michigan had a shot-clock violation with 14 seconds to go, giving Northwestern one last chance. Taylor was long on a desperation three-pointer as time expired.

"We probably could've got a better shot," Northwestern center Derrek Gordon said. "It was contested. We could've gotten a better one, but we're still learning and moving forward."

Pardon led the Wildcats (6-3, 0-2) with 20 points on 9-for-10 shooting. Vic Law shook off a slow start and finished with 19.

It was Northwestern's second straight tough loss, including 68-66 at Indiana on Saturday.

"We've just got to close games out down the stretch," Law said. "I don't think it's our offense that's messing up late in games. We just have to lock in and be really sharp."

No. 25 Furman 98, Elon 77: Alex

Hunter scored all of his 18 points in the second half, and visiting Furman won its first game since the program's debut in the AP Top 25.

Matt Rafferty also scored 18 points and Clay Mounce added 17 for the Paladins (9-0), who cracked the rankings this week thanks to an early-season resume that includes road victories over defending national champion Villanova and Loyola-Chicago, which made the Final Four last season.

No. 2 Kansas 72, Wofford 47: Dedric Lawson had 20 points and eight rebounds, and host Kansas beat Wofford after center Udoka Azubuike left with a right high-ankle sprain.

Azubuike was injured after landing awkwardly on a block attempt midway through the first half, and coach Bill Self said the 7-footer will not be indefinitely.

Devon Dotson had 16 points for Kansas (7-0).

No. 8 Auburn 67, UNC Asheville 41: Austin Wiley scored 14 points, Samir Doughty added 13 and host Auburn won despite a season low in points.

The Tigers (7-1) forced 25 turnovers and blocked 12 shots to overcome their offensive struggles.

No. 22 Mississippi State 90, McNeese State 77: Lamar Peters scored 27 points, Reggie Perry added 15 and Mississippi State pulled away from McNeese State in the second half.

Mississippi State (7-1) needed a 19-0 run early in the second half to finally take control of a game that was much more competitive than anticipated. Peters shot 9 of 16 from the field, including 8-for-13 from three-point range.

Start: Martin twins' return helped Nevada secure experienced lineup

FROM BACK PAGE

They play 20th-ranked Arizona State on Friday at Staples Center as part of the Basketball Hall of Fame Classic tripleheader. It'll be Nevada's second trip to Los Angeles in a week, having beaten Southern California 73-61 last Saturday.

Back home in Reno, the Wolf Pack are a popular draw, averaging 10,350 fans in their first four home games of the season.

The 22-year-old Martin twins are a big reason for that.

Caleb and Cody Martin seriously considered leaving early for the NBA Draft in June but took until the final hours before the deadline to decide that they would return.

The biggest factor in Caleb's decision was his injured left foot. He sprained it in a game against Colorado last February and played through the injury to lead Nevada to the Sweet 16. After the season, his foot remained in a boot and affected his workouts during the pre-draft process. Returning to school meant he could give his foot time to heal instead of playing at a disadvantage while trying to make an NBA roster.

He spent last summer alternately resting his foot, staying in shape and expanding his game.

"I definitely wanted to become more of a facilitator," Martin said. "Obviously, my job here for the most part is to score, but really just make reads quicker and do things to get my teammates more involved since we do have so much more talent this year."

Cody Martin, whose draft stock was lower than his brother's, also decided to come back.

Their return ensured the Wolf Pack would field one of the nation's most experienced lineups. They start five redshirt seniors: the twins along with Jordan Caroline, TreShawn Thurman and Trey Porter. The roster includes eight transfers.

"It's a weird mix but it's a good mix at the same time," Caroline said. "We're experienced but we haven't been together for the longest time. Our whole team is really close."

Caleb Martin averages a team-high 19.9 points and 4.8 rebounds. Caroline is the second-leading scorer at 18.5 points and 10 rebounds, and the Wolf Pack is 31-2 when he posts a double-double. Cody contributes 8.7 points and four rebounds a game.

"Caleb is so versatile," Mueselmann said. "Defensively, he continues to get better and he takes bigger assignments this year than he did in the past. As

an off-guard, he's a phenomenal rebounder as well."

Two years ago, the twins transferred from North Carolina State, where they reached the Sweet 16 and played two hours from their hometown in Mocksville, N.C. They started over at Nevada in the lower profile Mountain West.

"Totally the right move. I don't regret it one bit," Caleb said. "I don't regret going there either because I had the experience in a big-time conference (ACC). I still have relationships at the school."

If they'd known coach Mark Gottfried would be fired months later, Caleb said it might have caused them to reconsider the move a bit more. At the same time, if he'd known how well things would work out at the next stop, Caleb said, "I would have definitely left."

College represents what may be the twins' last chance to do everything together, whether it's playing basketball or video games or living under the same roof.

"We know exactly what each other is thinking before we say it," said Caleb, born a minute after Cody.

They use hand signals with each other on court and when one of them makes a mistake they'll say "I know" before the other can point it out.



MARCO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

Nevada's Caleb Martin, left, stands next to his twin brother Cody Martin as their teammate Jordan Caroline, center, shoots free throws last week against USC.

Standing 6-foot-7 and weighing 200 pounds, the twins sound alike and sport the same styles with their hair and beards. Caleb is quick to lower his head to reveal a distinguishing feature: a zigzag pattern in his cut.

Mueselmann can tell the difference between them.

"Cody doesn't smile as much as Caleb and Cody is more serious," the coach said. "Their mom, when she's away from them a little bit, she struggles."

Caleb corrected his coach: "My mom definitely knows unless she gets mad and she blurts somebody's name out."

Caleb would love to hear his name called next June on NBA Draft night, preferably for the Charlotte Hornets. Although they don't talk about it much, Cody wants to be right there, too.

"That would be awesome if we were able to play every single level our entire life together," Caleb said.

NFL



JAMES KENNEY/AP

Tennessee Titans wide receiver Corey Davis, right, celebrates with Taywan Taylor after Davis scored a touchdown on an 11-yard pass against the New York Jets on Sunday in Nashville, Tenn. Davis and Taylor, along with Tajae Sharpe, have taken over the receiving duties for the Titans due to injuries.

Trio of young receivers producing for Tennessee

By TERESA M. WALKER

Associated Press

The Tennessee Titans' trust in their young receivers may be starting to pay off.

Corey Davis, the fifth overall pick in the 2017 draft, is leading the Titans with 744 yards receiving and could become the franchise's first 1,000-yard receiver since 2013. Tajae Sharpe notched his first 100-yard receiving performance in October, and Taywan Taylor became the third to post a new career high with 104 yards receiving in the Titans' comeback win against the Jets.

It's a confident trio that's becoming more comfortable each week.

"We know what type of players we are," Taylor said Tuesday. "We know what we bring to the table, all of us, my brothers in the receiving room and everybody on this team. We know what type of players we are, and ... when we trust our training and everybody executes, good things can happen."

The Titans signed only veteran Michael Campanaro during the offseason and didn't replace him when he was placed on injured reserve. They signed young tight ends in Anthony Firkser and MyCole Pruitt after three-time Pro Bowler Delanie Walker broke his



Jacksonville Jaguars (4-8)
at Tennessee Titans (6-6)

AFC-Sports
2 a.m. Friday CET
10 a.m. Friday JKT



right ankle in the opener. Since then, they've leaned on Davis, Sharpe and Taylor along with Darius Jennings and Cameron Batson.

Mix in a new offense with a first-year play-caller in coordinator Matt LaFleur, and the Titans have had plenty of growing pains. It didn't help when Taylor, their speed threat, missed three games with an injured left foot. Taylor was drafted in the third round out of Western Kentucky last year.

Marcus Mariota overthrew Taylor on the first play of the fourth quarter against the Jets. He went back to Taylor for a 44-yarder and then a 55-yarder to set up a pair of field goals in their big comeback.

"It was good to see Taywan be able to stretch the defense and go make a play," coach Mike Vrabel said. "I know Marcus would like

to have the one back, but to be able to hit two of those to change field position and momentum, certainly, we would like to have as many of those every week as we could."

The Titans (6-6) need the young receivers to produce for an offense that ranks 29th in the NFL, managing just 197.5 yards passing per game. It won't be easy Thursday night when they host the Jaguars (4-8) and a secondary featuring Jalen Ramsey and A.J. Bouye in a game Tennessee needs to win to keep itself in the chase for the AFC's final wild-card slot.

This franchise hasn't had a receiver post back-to-back 100-yard receiving games since Nate Washington did it in September 2013.

Mariota sees the Titans' comfort level growing weekly as they become more efficient. Getting Taylor back should ease the defensive focus on Davis, who had 161 yards receiving in the Titans' overtime win over Philadelphia in September and 125 yards against the Patriots in November.

Now the key for Mariota and his receivers is continuing to show progress as the Titans chase a second straight playoff berth.

"We've just got to continue working at it," Mariota said. "It's a process, but I think it's something to build off of and something that we can use moving forward."

Leaders

AFC

Week 13 Quarterbacks

Att Com Yds TD Int				
Rodriguez, PIT	517	341	3945	26
Mahomes, KC	428	287	3923	11
P. Rivers, LAC	380	265	3418	26
Brady, NE	489	332	3300	12
D. Carr, OAK	424	286	3342	20
Watson, HOU	422	292	3112	16
Keenum, DEN	364	242	3101	21
Mayfield, CLE	414	256	2953	14
Bortles, JAC	354	224	2639	18
	369	223	2972	13

Runners

Yds Att LG TD				
Lindsay, DEN	154	937	61	658
Conner, PIT	201	909	4.5	30
L. Miller, HOU	176	876	5.0	97
Kareem Hunt, KC	181	824	4.6	45
M. Gordon, LAC	153	802	5.2	34
Mixon, CIN	154	755	4.9	43
N. Chubb, CLE	131	694	5.9	92
Crowell, NYJ	141	680	4.8	77
Michel, NE	144	649	4.5	34
Gore, MIA	139	616	4.4	39

Receivers

Yds Att LG TD				
T. Hill, KC	66	1119	17.0	754
D. Hopkins, HOU	80	1115	13.3	49
Smith-Schuster, PIT	83	1104	13.3	97
Kelece, KC	79	1082	13.7	43
A. Brown, PIT	81	1028	12.7	78
K. Allen, LAC	83	996	12.0	54
Boyd, CIN	69	938	13.6	49
E. Sanders, DEN	71	868	12.2	64
T. Hilton, IND	53	787	14.8	68
Cor. Davis, TEN	52	744	14.3	51

Punters

Yds No Yds LG TD				
Kern, TEN	47	2704	62	47.3
Koch, BAL	47	2211	65	47.0
L. Edwards, NYJ	46	3033	67	46.0
R. Allen, NE	46	2109	66	45.8
Sanchez, IND	42	1923	61	45.8
Haack, MIA	64	2910	65	45.5
B. Colquitt, CLE	70	3162	79	45.2
D. Carlson, BUF	54	1535	67	45.1
Bojorquez, BUF	45	2028	60	45.1
Berry, PIT	51	2172	69	44.5

Punt returns

Yds No Yds LG TD				
A. Roberts, NYJ	19	285	10.6	93
D. King, LAC	19	285	10.6	93
Ernst, PIT	19	285	10.6	93
T. Hill, KC	17	197	11.6	71
Dr. Harris, OAK	15	153	10.2	98
Peppers, CLE	20	179	9.0	33
Switzer, PIT	24	204	8.5	33
Tyler Ervin, HOU	21	173	8.3	27

Kickoff returns

Yds No Yds LG TD				
Jennings, TEN	15	522	34.8	94
Patterson, NE	19	580	30.5	95
Jak. Grant, MIA	18	535	29.7	102
Tr. Smith, KC	23	642	27.9	97
Erickson, CIN	21	596	26.9	51
A. Roberts, NYJ	26	665	25.6	59
D. King, LAC	16	364	22.8	40
Dr. Harris, OAK	21	621	32.2	41
Peppers, CLE	16	340	21.2	28
Switzer, PIT	23	451	13.6	35

Scoring Touchdowns

TD Rush Rec Tot				
Kareem Hunt, KC	14	7	7	84
Burker, KC	12	1	0	82
M. Gordon, LAC	13	9	4	82
Conner, PIT	6	0	12	78
Ebron, IND	12	1	11	72
T. Hill, KC	12	0	11	72
Kelece, KC	9	7	2	54
Lindsay, DEN	9	8	1	54

Kickoffs

Yds PAT FG LG TD				
Fairbairn, HOU	29-30	29-34	54	116
Burker, KC	28-28	28-31	320	83
Myers, NYJ	21-22	28-30	96	105
Vinnicombe, NE	27-28	27-30	54	83
Tucker, BAL	28-29	25-27	56	103
Scuoppo, TEN	20-21	21-24	54	83
Vinnicombe, NE	32-34	32-34	54	83
McMannus, DEN	30-30	16-20	53	74
Brimbo, JAC	19-19	19-21	51	74
J. Sanders, MIA	26-27	16-17	50	74

Team statistics

Average per game				
OFFENSE				
Kansas City	437.2	120.7	316.5	
Pittsburgh	413.8	126.1	320.7	
Baltimore	399.4	107.9	291.4	
New England	395.1	121.7	273.4	
Houston	371.8	106.9	264.9	
Baltimore	374.0	140.8	233.2	
Denver	367.7	123.5	244.2	
Cleveland	360.3	126.6	233.6	
Cleveland	346.8	107.4	239.4	
Jacksonville	335.2	111.2	223.9	
Vinnicombe, NE	331.3	106.4	224.9	
Tennessee	310.2	112.7	197.5	
Buffalo	302.1	102.7	199.4	
N.Y. Jets	297.0	106.9	190.1	
Miami	285.7	121.1	164.6	

DEFENSE

Yards Rush Pass				
Baltimore	281.7	87.2		
Buffalo	284.2	107.0	187.2	
Jacksonville	315.6	108.4	207.2	
Washington	373.8	102.4	271.5	
L.A. Chargers	334.9	104.0	230.9	
Houston	340.9	103.6	237.3	
Indianapolis	341.5	93.1	250.2	
Tennessee	347.8	104.1	243.8	
New England	368.2	121.1	247.1	
N.Y. Jets	376.4	128.3	248.1	
Washington	382.8	121.1	261.7	
Oakland	396.6	153.2	243.3	
Miami	399.4	144.7	254.8	
Cleveland	412.8	166.4	246.4	
Kansas City	417.0	122.0	295.0	
Cincinnati	433.1	153.3	279.8	

NFC

Week 13 Quarterbacks

Att Com Yds TD Int				
Ryan, ATL	460	326	3814	25
GoF, LA	471	275	3754	27
A. Rodgers, GBY	363	285	3504	21
Cousins, MIN	491	350	3490	23
Manning, NYG	436	296	3263	15
Brees, NO	384	263	3539	59
Stafford, DET	439	292	3086	18
Newton, CAR	410	279	3099	24
Wentz, PHI	369	257	2846	18
Ru. Wilson, SEA	326	217	2176	25

Runners

Yds Att LG TD				
Gurley, LA	233	1175	5.0	36
E. Elliott, DAL	163	848	4.8	48
Barkley, NYG	195	954	4.9	68
McCaffrey, CAR	163	863	5.3	59
A. Peterson, WAS	192	856	4.5	90
Daw. Johnson, ARI	205	761	3.7	53
Breida, SNF	132	744	5.6	66
Kamara, NOR	161	742	4.6	49
C. Carson, SEA	157	704	4.5	24
Aa. Jones, GBY	112	642	5.7	67

Receivers

Yds Att LG TD				
Ju. Jones, ATL	86	1325	25.4	58
Thielen, MIN	98	1166	11.9	68
M. Evans, TAM	66	1121	17.0	72
M. Thomas, NOR	91	1120	12.3	72
D. Adams, GBY	85	1113	13.1	57
Beckham, NYG	77	1052	13.7	41
Cooks, LA	63	1026	16.3	57
Erzt, PHA	93	978	10.5	34
R. Woods, LA	64	971	15.2	36
Kittle, SNF	62	893	14.4	82

Punters

Yds No Yds LG TD				
M. Dickson, SEA	15	2679	69	48.7
Johnston, PHI	47	2287	68	48.1
A. Lee, ARI	51	3440	64	48.5
Scotton, NYG	54	2491	60	46.1
Palmer, CAR	59	2470	69	46.1
Carr, GBY	52	2369	67	45.6
O'Donnell, CHI	46	2091	65	45.5
Hekker, LA	32	1444	68	45.1
Chris Jones, DAL	29	1305	56	45.0

Punt returns

Yds No Yds LG TD				
Natson, LA	28	337	12.0	42
Cohen, CHI	18	160	8.9	24
Shelton, MIN	21	187	8.4	44
A. Humphries, TAM	17	108	6.4	16
Hardy, ATL	20	187	7.7	40
Lockett, SEA	19	105	5.5	19

Kickoff returns

Yds No Yds LG TD				
M. Hall, ATL	16	417	26.1	53
Coutess, LA	17	419	24.6	40
R. James, SNF	15	362	23.4	47.0

Scoring Touchdowns

TD Rush Rec Tot				
Gurley, LA	19	15	4	0120
Kamara, NOR	15	11	4	094
Barkley, NYG	12	8	4	074
D. Adams, GBY	11	0	11	066
McCaffrey, CAR	12	23	26	54
Thielen, MIN	9	9	0	56
E. Elliott, DAL	9	6	3	54
Lockett, SEA	9	0	0	54

Kicking

PAT FG LG TD				
Lutz, NOR	44-45	23-24	54	113
Ross, NYG	21-21	26-27	57	99
Prater, DEN	29-29	24-25	54	99
M. Crosby, GBY	27-27	22-29	53	93
Parkey, CHI	35-37	19-24	50	92
Prater, DEN	23-23	23-26	54	92
Goff, SNF	30-30	23-24	53	89
Kondowski, SEA	37-39	20-24	53	89
Hopkins, WAS	23-24	20-23	56	83
El. Elliott, PHA	23-23	19-23	56	83
Zuerlein, LA	23-23	19-23	56	83

Team statistics

Average per game	</
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HEISMAN TROPHY FINALISTS

ALABAMA QB TUA TAGOVAILOA

No defining moment? No problem

Teammates say sophomore leader played critical role in Tide's domination

BY JOHN ZENOR
Associated Press

Tua Tagovailoa hasn't produced a so-called Heisman moment this season.

He didn't have one in the Southeastern Conference championship game. Hurt and not quite himself, the Alabama quarterback was sidelined for the climactic final minutes of the top-ranked Crimson Tide's comeback, 35-28 win Saturday over No. 6 Georgia in Atlanta.

So Tagovailoa, hampered by a high ankle sprain, didn't produce a defining play or performance in the biggest game of a season that Alabama has mostly dominated.

To Tagovailoa's teammates, that shouldn't matter.

Though obviously somewhat biased, they may be right.

He was among the Heisman finalists announced Monday evening, along with Oklahoma quarterback Kyler Murray and Ohio State quarterback Dwayne Haskins. "Tua's the best football player in the country," Alabama tailback Damien Harris said after the title game. "I don't think he needs a Heisman moment. That's some made-up thing, criteria, that people have invented to try to get people an award if they necessarily deserve it or not."

"Tua's the most deserving of the Heisman and I hope everybody sees it that way because what he's done for our team, for our university, for our community, for our fans, for everybody, is just irreplaceable. I hope that everybody realizes that."

Truth is, Tagovailoa started 2018 with a Heisman moment — just in a different season.

The second-half comeback and winning, 41-yard touchdown pass to DeVonta Smith in overtime just happened to come at the end of last season in the national title game.

It gave the sophomore from Hawaii national name recognition and made him the betting favorite for the Heisman even before he

'...what he's done for our team, for our university, for our community, for our fans, for everybody, is just irreplaceable. I hope that everybody realizes that.'

Damien Harris
Alabama tailback

started a game. He has lived up to the hype.

Tagovailoa delivered possibly the most dominating season of any quarterback at Alabama, which has never had a Heisman winner at the position. He was named AP's SEC offensive player of the year on Monday and was a unanimous pick as the first-team quarterback.

Tagovailoa has led the Tide back to the playoffs and a matchup with Murray and Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl on Dec. 29.

It was a season of terrific performances when Alabama was so dominant that Tagovailoa threw only three fourth-quarter passes during the first 12 games. There were plenty of dynamic plays from the left-hander, starting on the season's opening drive when he threw for a touchdown after spinning away from one Louisville defender and launching an off-balance, midair touchdown pass just before taking a hit.

Tagovailoa passed for 3,353 yards and a school-record 37 TDs against just four interceptions. But two of those picks came near Georgia's goal line in the SEC title game.

He came into the game as the nation's most efficient passer and widely regarded as the Heisman front-runner but rolled his left ankle early and mostly struggled. Tagovailoa was helped off the field after his own offensive lineman landed on his right foot in the fourth quarter.

Tagovailoa's day ended with a pedestrian 10-for-25, 164-yard, one-touchdown stat line. It remains to be seen how much it weighed into the decisions of Heisman voters.

Teammates voiced hopes that their star would be judged more on the first 12 games.

Tagovailoa piled up five 300-yard passing games this season and accounted for a school-record six touchdowns — five passing, one rushing — in the regular-season finale against Auburn. Despite all that, Harris calls him "the most humble guy that I know."

FINALIST FACTS

WHO: Tua Tagovailoa

YEAR/POSITION/SCHOOL: Sophomore, QB, Alabama

BIO: A native of Hawaii, Tagovailoa was a five-star recruit who came off the bench to lead a comeback in the national championship game to finish his freshman season. Beat out two-year starter Jalen Hurts.

KEY STATS: Passed for 3,353 yards and 37 touchdowns against four interceptions. Had a string of 194 passes without an interception starting in the third quarter of January's title game with Georgia. At-

tempted only three fourth-quarter passes during the regular season with Alabama building big leads.

THE SKINNY: Opened the season as the betting favorite for the Heisman despite not starting a game, thanks largely to a performance in the national title game that included the 41-yard winning touchdown pass in overtime. Left the Southeastern Conference championship game in the same Atlanta stadium with a high ankle sprain. Injured early in the game and again late, it was a rare off-performance for Tagovailoa.

— Associated Press

BUTCH DILL/AP



SPORTS



Tua's time?

Tide teammates say QB deserves Heisman » **Page 47**

COLLEGE BASKETBALL



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

Nevada forward Cody Martin, right, dribbles down court as his twin brother Caleb, left, trails Saturday against Southern California in Los Angeles. With the twins delaying their departure to the NBA to return to Reno, the Wolf Pack have five redshirt seniors in their starting lineup.

Another perfect start

Martin twins help boost No. 6 Nevada to second straight 8-0 record

By BETH HARRIS
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Nevada's bus pulled into Loyola of Chicago's arena and the Wolf Pack made their way to the locker room. Even behind closed doors, one of college basketball's most derisive chants rang in

their ears: "Over-rated!"

Of course the Ramblers' fans laid it on thick last week. Nevada nearly derailed the team's storybook run in the NCAA Tournament last season.

"We're getting used to this," coach Eric Musselman said.

No. 6 Nevada has matched its 8-0 start

from last season, winning its games by an average of 20 points.

"We've had this number next to our name — preseason, before we even played a game — and we hadn't proven anything, so we're just trying to continue to validate who we are as a basketball team," Musselman said.

Last season, Nevada went 29-8, won the

Mountain West regular-season title and earned an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament. They beat Texas and Cincinnati to reach the Sweet 16 before losing to Loyola of Chicago 69-68.

Last week, the Wolf Pack avenged that heartbreaking defeat with a 79-65 victory.

SEE START ON PAGE 45

No. 5 Wolverines survive scare by Wildcats » **Page 45**

